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Issue No 137
Available from Wednesday,
May 12, 2010

ELECTION 2010

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NEW MP'S PLACE IN POLITICAL HISTORY

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KELLY IS A PERFECT FIT

Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes visited a Maidstone gym to promote her very own workout.

Members at the Village Hotel, in Sandling, were able to chat to the British runner on Friday night about the regime, titled Get More Out of Life with Perfect Fit, which is exclusive to the chain.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Maidstone, councillors Peter and Daphne Parvin, attended the event and found out more about Dame Kelly's success and what the gym has to offer.

The Pembury-born athlete also told guests the secrets behind her own gruelling training programme.

BY ANNA WHITE

MP Helen Grant has made political history as the first black woman Tory MP.

Her win was declared in the early hours of Friday following an intense election campaign between the successful Maidstone and the Weald Conservative candidate and her Lib-Dem rival Peter Carroll.

Mrs Grant, who replaced long-standing MP Ann Widdecombe (Con), won with 23,491 votes.

Mrs Grant is the Conservative's first female black MP – but says it is not something she wants to define her time in Parliament.

In a previous interview with YourMaidstone, Mrs Grant said: "I don't think about that really, but I understand that being first and being different may be of interest to some people."

"If that helps to break down one of those proverbial glass ceilings, helps inspire others and enables them to climb through too, then I guess it's a good thing."

"But I am just Helen and all my focus now is to become the next elected member for Maidstone and the Weald, the next in a long line of very distinguished forerunners."

"That would indeed make me very happy and very proud."

Ms Grant's first constituency surgery has been scheduled for Friday, 21 at the Maidstone Conservative office in Albion Place.

• Turn to pages two and three for full coverage



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Printed by Newsfax

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Landslide victory is 'humbling moment'

TORY MP Hugh Robertson is celebrating his third Parliamentary win in Faversham and Mid Kent.

Mr Robertson retained the seat with a landslide 26,250 votes, beating Liberal Democrat candidate David Naghi by 17,088.

The Conservative winner said he is overwhelmed with the result.

He said: "I am delighted and a little surprised. I sensed during the campaign that it was swaying our way, but I did not expect to get that majority. It was a very humbling moment."

"First thing I am going to do is go back to my office and start working in the same way."

Although overjoyed with his win, Mr Robertson said the Conservative party had not done as well as he had hoped.

The Tory MP said: "The result on Thursday was an extremely good one for the Conservative Party in terms of the swing achieved and the number of seats gained."

"However, we have to accept we did not quite do well enough to achieve an overall majority so some compromises have to be made."

"Personally, I believe common ground can be found between us and The Liberal Democrats over the economy, education, the environment and political reform. The difficult area is electoral reform – not least because there are so many different forms of proportional representation."

"For me, the sticking point is the link between an MP and his, or her, constituency. It is one of the key strengths of the British system and I would not want us to do any-



Faversham and Mid Kent

Hugh Robertson (Con): 26,250

David Naghi (Lib Dem): 9,162

Ash Rehal (Lab) 7,748

Sarah Larkins (UKIP): 1,722

Tim Valentine (Green): 890

Graham Kemp (National Front): 542

Hairy Knorm Davidson (Monster Raving Loony Party): 398

VOTERS ARE TRUE BLUE: Hugh Robertson and Helen Grant have maintained the Tory foothold in Faversham and Mid Kent and Maidstone and The Weald for another term

thing that weakened it."

Mr Robertson was due to attend a meeting with Mr Cameron and other Tory MPs on Monday night.

Despite his loss, defeated Lib Dem hopeful Mr Naghi remained upbeat following the Faversham and Mid

Kent announcement and said he will stand again at the next General Election in the hope he will get a better result.

The candidate to receive the lowest amount of votes was Hairy Knorm, of the Monster Raving Loony party, with just 398.



RESULT: Hugh Robertson retained his Faversham and Mid Kent seat for the third time with a massive victory of 26,250 votes

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County town elects its new first lady

The Conservatives successfully retained their hold on both of Maidstone's constituencies in the General Election. Helen Grant won retiring Tory MP Ann Widdecombe's seat in Maidstone and the Weald and Hugh Robertson notched up his third straight victory in the Faversham and Mid Kent parliamentary seat

■ BY ANNA WHITE
AND STEVE KNIGHT

TORY victor Helen Grant broke down in tears and hugged her husband after clinching the Maidstone and Weald seat.

An emotional Mrs Grant beat Liberal Democrat rival Peter Carroll by 5,889 votes, despite earlier predictions that the contest would be more closely fought.

The candidate standing for Maidstone and Weald to receive the lowest votes was Christian Party hopeful Heidi Simmonds with just 131. The turnout was 69.1 per cent.

Mother-of-two Mrs Grant admitted she had a hard act to follow in replacing popular Tory stalwart Ann Widdecombe, who stepped down after 23 years in Parliament.

"Ann has been a great friend to me and she's an amazing woman," she said. "I can't wait to step into her



COUNT: Helen Grant won 23,491 votes

shoes and be the MP for this amazing constituency.

"This is very emotional for me and I am so thankful to my family and team for all of their support.

"It has been a pleasure and a privilege working with the people of Maidstone and the Weald for the last two and a half years and I must give the biggest thank you to the voters, who have put their trust in me.

"I promise you I will strive to achieve change with conviction, drive and determination and I will serve you with honesty and integrity."

Mrs Grant also thanked Yourmaidstone for helping her win the seat, adding: "I really couldn't have done it without you. Your support has helped more than you will ever know.

"I would urge the readers to continue reading and tell them they can contact me at any time."

Husband Simon added: "I am just so proud of her."

This was the third successive election night defeat for Mr Carroll following previous disappointments in 2001 and 2005.

His failure to win the seat mirrored the collapse of the Lib Dems across the country, as the so-called 'Cleggmania' phenomenon failed to materialise.

The Lib Dems were predicted to have their best election results in a generation due to the surge in popularity that followed Nick Clegg's dazzling performance in the first leaders' debate.

Speaking to our sister paper after his election defeat, Mr Carroll said: "I'm disappointed because I thought we had an outside chance of winning in Maidstone, but I am pleased with the Liberal Democrats' success in the borough seats."

"I was really pleased with the campaign we put together, but it wasn't the best night and not the result we were hoping for.

"To be honest it's a little bit of a mystery as to why the party did not do as well as expected. I don't think anyone knows the answer to that.

"We were second in the polls beforehand but only ended up with 23 per cent of the vote, so either lots of those people didn't vote or they changed their minds at the last minute and went for the safer options."

Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg is currently in talks with Tory and Labour leaders after the election resulted in a hung parliament.

Mr Cameron called a meeting with his MPs on Monday night to discuss the situation – Mrs Grant confirmed she would be attending.

Borough stays blue

THE Conservatives have retained power of Maidstone Borough Council despite losing a key cabinet member.

The local election, also held on May 6, was for 18 of the 26 wards.

The Tories won nine of the wards and still hold 28 council seats out of the total 55.

The overall winners lost councillors in two wards – Bridge and east – but gained a seat in Bearsted and Shepway south.

Their losses included Bridge councillor Brian Moss (pictured), who was the cabinet member for leisure and culture. Mr Moss was beaten by 164 votes. The new cabinet will be announced at the next council annual meeting.

The Liberal Democrats lost Park Wood ward but gained the Tories' two lost seats and now have 23 representatives on the council.



Maidstone Borough Council

Allington: Dan Daley (Lib Dem): 2,705
Bearsted: Heather Langley (Con): 2,546 •
Boxley: Derek Butler (Con): 2,796
Bridge: David Pickett (Lib Dem): 1,345 •
Coxheath and Hunton: Brian Mortimer (Lib Dem): 1,480 • East: Jane Naghi (Lib Dem): 2,324 • Fant: Steve Beerling (Lib Dem): 1,704 • Harrietsham and Lenham: John Barned (Con): 1,451 •
Headcorn: Jenny Gibson (Con): 1,922 • Heath: Jenni Sharp (Lib Dem): 1,114 • High Street: Clive English (Lib Dem): 1,793 • Marden and Yalding: Rodd Nelson-Gracie (Con): 2,395 • North: Tony Harwood (Lib Dem): 1,978 • Park Wood: David Burton (Con): 790 • Shepway north: Mike Yates (Con): 1,612 • Shepway south: Adrian Brindle (Con): 928 • South: Derek Mortimer (Lib Dem): 2,062 • Staplehurst: Eric Hotson (Con): 1,906

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Maidstone and The Weald

Helen Grant (Con): 23,491
Peter Carroll (Lib Dem): 17,602
Rav Seeruthun (Lab): 4,769
Gareth Kendall (UKIP): 1,637
Stuart Jeffery (Green): 655
Gary Butler (National Front): 643
Heidi Simmons (Christian Party): 131



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INVESTIGATIONS: Det Supt Mick Judge outside Homebase in Aylesford, which was hit by fire last week

Homebase arson could be one of three, say police

POLICE fear a deliberate fire which destroyed a Homebase branch could be linked to two incidents at separate B&Q stores.

Investigators from Kent Police's major crime department are analysing the three incidents, which happened in Maidstone over the bank holiday weekend.

The first blaze took hold at Homebase in Aylesford retail park, at 12.45pm on Saturday, May 1. About an hour later, and less than a mile away, members of staff at B&Q in Larkfield extinguished a fire in the lighting section.

Two days later, on Monday, May 3, employees at the Maidstone branch of B&Q, in Barker Road, discovered what was described as the preparation of a fire in the wood aisle of the store at 2pm. It had not been lit.

Police have arrested and charged 27-year-old Benny Dighton, of no fixed address, in connection with the third incident, but officers want more information to help discover who was responsible for each of the fires.

Detective Superintendent Mick Judge, head of major and serious crime, said: "We would like to hear from anyone who was at any of these stores who may have seen anything suspicious, around the time of these three incidents."

Forensic teams were only able to enter the gutted Homebase building on Wednesday as it was deemed unsafe by fire experts.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

More than 90 firefighters tackled the flames for 42 hours and the entire retail park had to be evacuated.

The suspicious fires follow three smaller fires in the town centre on Tuesday, April 27.

The first was in the Chequers Centre toilets, the second was in Sainsbury's and the third was in McDonalds in Week Street.

Police have arrested and charged Luke French, of Marigold Way, Maidstone, with the three incidents.

The 20-year-old is due to appear in Maidstone Crown Court in the coming weeks. Det Supt Judge said residents and shoppers should not be concerned by the recent spate of fires in Maidstone.

"These offences are rare. People have been charged and remanded in custody," he said.

Det Supt Judge also confirmed the police were working with management teams at Homebase and B&Q.

Anyone with information should call the incident room on 01622 654841 or call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Benny Dighton appeared before Maidstone magistrates on Wednesday, May 5, to face charges of attempted arson with intent to endanger life and one offence for a burglary at a school in the town.

He has been remanded in custody until his next court appearance.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Villagers open new store

VILLAGERS have proudly opened their new community shop – two years after their old store closed.

Homeowners in Chart Sutton watched with on Friday when the Mayor of Maidstone, councillor Peter Parvin, officially launched the Shop on the Green.

The volunteer-run store was the brainchild of a community association, set up when the former village shop closed – forcing the residents to drive to buy all basic supplies.

The Shop on the Green, set in a 120-square foot cabin, offers fresh bread, chilled and frozen food, groceries and a post office.

Ann Grey, of the Chart Sutton Community Shop Association, said: "Customers are amazed just how much we have in here. We are sure we must be in the smallest shop in Kent and it is certainly the friendliest."

The shop is open seven days a week, from 9am to 10pm.

Arsonists target digger

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to come forward who may have seen a digger deliberately set alight.

Officers want to hear from anyone who has information about the suspicious blaze in Beltring Road, Paddock Wood, on Thursday, April 22.

The Kubota digger was parked behind the Blue Bell Inn when it was targeted by arsonists between 10.15pm and 11.40pm.

Kent Fire and Rescue teams were called to the incident and extinguished the flames, but the cab and engine of the vehicle were destroyed. Witnesses are urged to contact police on 01732 379 217.

Beer festival at centre

BEER and cider enthusiasts are expected to flock to a historic festival when it comes to Maidstone this summer.

The Campaign for Real Ale's Beer festival, which has been running since the 1970s, is to take place at East Malling Research centre.

The one-day event, on Saturday, September 4, will see the centre's ground filled by more than 70 real ales and cider brands for visitors to test, including many from Kent-based breweries.

There will also be entertainment and attractions taking place throughout the day.

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Guides join hospice's Bluebell Walk

DEDICATED walkers trekked eight miles to help raise more than £36,000 to help care for the terminally ill.

More than 800 volunteers took part in the Bluebell Walk on Sunday, despite the heavy downpours, in aid of the Heart of

Kent Hospice, in Aylesford. Among the crowd were regulars, new faces, Ditton Girl Guides (pictured) and pets.

The annual walk is one of the charity's flagship fundraising events to help it raise the £3m it needs to continue its work.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

DAVID SIMONS



Q Tell us a bit about yourself?

A I am headmaster of Cornwallis Academy, in Linton – part of the New Line Learning federation, which also includes the New Line Learning Academy in Loose.

Q As a headteacher, do you still get the opportunity to teach within a classroom?

A I don't get to teach, but I do get to observe some excellent practice.

Q What do you enjoy most about your job and what are the downsides?

A I have the privilege of working with an extremely talented and committed group of young people who constantly surprise and delight me with their maturity and attitudes to learning. There are no downsides, its the best job in the world.

Q There is building work going on at Cornwallis at the moment, what is it you are building and when is it due to be complete?

A We are building a state-of-the-art school fit for the 21st century learner. It will be full of technology and exciting new learning environments. It will be complete in 2011.

Q Cornwallis has changed dramatically since it was taken on by the New Line Learning Federation. How have the changes improved the students' education?



INNOVATIVE: The new building at Cornwallis Academy in Linton will offer 'exciting new learning environments'

A The education has improved in many ways. The learners get a personalised curriculum where all students take GCSEs a year early, allowing more flexible learning routes in the sixth form. We have more students than ever obtaining places at university and results are the best they have ever been, beating all national averages and previous school records.

Q Tell us about the recent Ofsted report you have received?

A I was really pleased with the recent Ofsted report. It graded the academy as good with many outstanding features. It graded care, guidance and support as outstanding as well as the curriculum.

Ofsted felt that the working relationships between the staff and students were very good and that as a result achievement and progress was good. I was particularly pleased for the

student body as it was viewed as tenacious in its learning, caring, and supportive.

Q What do you put the academy's success down to?

A The academy's success is down to the young people we work with, the support that we receive from parents and the dedication of the teaching staff.

Q How do you maintain Cornwallis' standard of both staff and students?

A We work as a team to ensure the best for every child and maintain our high standards. We use a great deal of data to make sure that their needs are being served and we constantly check the quality of learning in the classroom through observations and line management. We set clear expectations for staff and students.

Q & A

The headteacher at the Cornwallis Academy talks to **Anna White** about how the ongoing improvements at the school benefit pupils, the school's glowing Ofsted report, and how high standards are maintained.



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No extra charge for absconding

CONVICTED murderer Jane Andrews will not face additional charges for absconding from an open prison.

The former royal dresser for Sarah Ferguson was facing an extended prison sentence for fleeing East Sutton Park HMP in November of last year.

She was twice ordered before the courts to explain her actions but failed to appear on both occasions.



NO MORE ACTION: Jane Andrews

The Crown Prosecution Service said it has now decided it is "no longer in the public interest" to pursue the case and has dropped the charge.

The decision comes in light of two new neuropsychiatric reports which were not available when Andrews was initially charged with absconding.

Andrews sparked a nationwide search when she went missing from the women's open prison - where she was serving a life sentence for murdering boyfriend Tom Cressman.

The 42-year-old had failed to appear at two scheduled hearings at Maidstone Magistrates Court - the first on April 9 and the second on April 20 - after her lawyers requested more time. She was noticed missing during an 8pm roll call.

Police finally found her after three days on the run at the Premier Inn at the M20 junction eight services.

The former royal aide, who would have been eligible for parole in 2012, has since been remanded at HMP Holloway in north London.

Young aspire to sport cheats to achieve victory

DIVERS, shirt-pullers and eye-gougers could be breeding a new generation of sport cheats, according to a recent poll.

The research, commissioned by the Cricket Foundation, found that more than half of schoolchildren would be willing to break the rules to achieve victory in team games.

Examples of bad sportsmanship cited in the survey of 1,015 eight to 16-year-olds included youngsters feigning injury, punching, kicking and swearing.

Ashford Town manager Steve Lovell - formerly Gillingham's football in the community officer - blamed the rise in cheating on the big wages and rewards tied up in sport.

He said: "Football has grown as a business rather than a sport and those involved in the game are perhaps more desperate to win because of the finances involved."

"It's very difficult to find a happy medium between winning and playing fairly."

"I would like to think I was an honest player back in the day. You've got to be, otherwise

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

you'll get found out in the end.

"When I used to run the soccer schools for Gillingham I always promoted fair play to the kids and would pull them aside if I saw any cheating, but unfortunately there will always be some who just won't play by the rules."

According to the Cricket Foundation poll, 54 per cent of children said they had witnessed bad sportsmanship in every single school match they played.

The willingness to cheat went down to 13.3 per cent for those playing individual sports.

Earlier this year Gravesend rugby player Clarence Harding was partially blinded when he was a victim of an eye-gouging attack during a match against Maidstone.

Nobody has yet been identified as committing the crime, which is still under investigation.

Recent high-profile cases of bad sportsmanship include Thierry Henry handling the ball twice before scoring to send France to the World Cup at the expense of the Republic of Ireland, and rugby's 'Bloodgate' scandal.



Picture CHARLES HARDING

BRUTAL: Clarence Harding, a Gravesend rugby player, was partially blinded during an eye-gouging attack

Even though more than half the children polled said they would be willing to cheat in sport, only four per cent would describe a sportsman who played unfairly as "cool".

And some 67 per cent said that seeing someone break the rules to win would not make them do the same.

But despite the survey being carried out by the Cricket Foundation, Kent Cricket Board community manager Clair Gould said her sport did not have a cheating problem.

She said: "One of the highest priorities in cricket is fair play, and that's at every level of the game."

"We've seen some tremendous growth in participation in the sport over the past few years, but not a growth in misconduct at all."

"I don't think there's an issue with cheating in cricket, and if there was it would be stamped out quickly because fair play is the backbone of the game."

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Liberation heroes join the party

■ BY NICK AMES

THE 65th anniversary of the liberation of Holland saw 380 veterans – who fought from the Normandy beaches on D-Day into the Low Countries and beyond – attend commemorations on May 5.

Coaches left the Port of Dover last week heading for the lands they freed from the Nazis at the end of World War Two.

Events in Holland were coordinated by the Normandy Veterans' Association and Norfolkline ferries supplied free transport for five coaches of veterans on its Dover-Dunkirk route.

Peter Hodge, who raises funds for veterans, said they had all been welcomed.

He said: "It's bought back memories and we've been treated extremely well. The Dutch really appreciate what the Allied soldiers did for them. It's very emotional for everyone."

"In one village there was dancing in the streets and veterans received medals. We were also able to say thank you to the Dutch resistance who helped so many British and other Allied troops and airmen. We were able to show it was a combined effort to liberate Holland."

"It's also great to see how the Dutch have recovered from the war. Places bombed and battered now have real style. It's fantastic."

Holland was liberated by Canadian troops,



WE'LL BE BACK: British Paras, left, in Arnhem during the failed attempt to capture bridges over the Rhine after the Allied airborne assault of Operation Market Garden, above, in September, 1944. Dutch liberation would have to wait until May 5, 1945

with the assistance of the British and American armies and the French also playing a part.

On May 5, 1945, Canadian General Charles Foulkes and German Commander-in-Chief Johannes Blaskowitz reached an agreement on the capitulation of Nazi forces in the Netherlands, at the Hotel De Wereld, Wageningen.

This followed a failed Allied attempt to end the war quickly through Operation Market Garden, which saw airborne troops dropped

near bridges over the Rhine, including at Arnhem – the famous A Bridge Too Far.

But British veterans who did help liberate the Dutch were applauded for their heroism at last week's events, including a service in the village of Zutphen. They were joined by Canadian and Belgian veterans of the conflict.

At the service was a group of Dutch resistance people who had risked their lives by sheltering downed Allied airmen and troops.

After the liberation in 1945, Liberation Day was commemorated every five years. Finally,

in 1990, the day was declared to be a national holiday when the liberation would be commemorated and celebrated every year.

On May 4 each year, the Dutch hold a Remembrance of the Dead for those who fought and died during the 1939-45 conflict and wars in general.

There is a remembrance gathering in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam and at the national monument on Dam Square in Amsterdam. Throughout the country, two minutes of silence are observed at 8pm.

Jailed backpacker halts India appeal

A BACKPACKER tortured and locked up for six years in an Indian jail has given up his fight for innocence and begged to come home.



Patrick Malluzzo (pictured left), from Dartford, has applied for a transfer to a British prison, even though it means dropping an appeal in the Indian Supreme Court to quash his conviction.

The 32-year-old, who was arrested in 2004 for possession of cannabis, said his fight had "reached the end of the road".

"I have been fighting for justice for six years, a fight which has taken a serious toll," he said. "I want to return to the UK so I can be close to my family."

Malluzzo was arrested while backpacking when a bag containing 19kg of cannabis – worth £2,000 in India – was found under train seats booked in his name and that of his co-accused 'J'.

He had not used the seat after a change in plans, but his bag and personal belongings were found with the drugs.

He claimed he had asked J – another British backpacker – to take them so he could travel light, arranging to meet later in Goa.

The pair met and J said he had got off the train to buy food and it had left the station with the belongings.

Former City worker Malluzzo said he had thought nothing of it and booked flights to Thailand, but he was arrested at Mumbai airport and charged with possession of cannabis.

Malluzzo – then 26 – was locked up and forced to wait two years for a trial, during which time he claimed to be tortured. He signed a confession and was sentenced to ten years in Kota jail.

His co-accused J was acquitted. An appeal in the Rajasthan High Court earlier this year also proved unsuccessful.

Main picture CHRIS CONNERSALL



FEATHERED FRIENDS: Avocet and bar-tailed godwit (inset) are visitors to the estuary

Estuary 'Futurescape' idea

WILDLIFE in the Thames Estuary should be better protected against potentially harmful developments like Boris Island, says the RSPB.

The charity believes conservation should be about the entire landscape, putting the environment at the heart of every planning issue.

It has identified the estuary as the first of several planned 'Futurescape' regions, which would involve teaming up with other conservation groups, businesses, local authorities and communities.

Such a partnership could spell the end for controversial proposals such as London Mayor Boris Johnson's idea for an airport off the Kent coast.

"Wrecking the best places we've got isn't a good place to start," said the RSPB's Andre Farrar.

"Boris Island would rip the heart out of the estuary. Those behind plans like this are harking back to older ways of thinking that really don't deliver and would be hugely damaging to nature. We have a responsibility to ensure we put the future of these special places at the heart of decision-making."

The RSPB owns or manages 40

sq km of land for wildlife on the Thames and has spent more than £50 million regenerating land in the region. The estuary is listed as the UK's fifth most important site for water birds, as it is home to an average 186,302.

In 2002 the charity joined other campaigners in successfully defeating the Government's plans for an estuary airport at Cliffe, near Rochester, and is working with developers to ensure the Thames Gateway project benefits wildlife as well as residents.

The RSPB is also campaigning against the Lydd airport expansion plan. Mr Farrar said: "This is the international year of biodiversity but we know the decline in wildlife is continuing."

"As a nation we need to look hard at how we can improve the situation. We've seen successes like stopping the Cliffe airport and saving the bittern and stone curlew, but more needs to be done. Futurescapes are about working with local authorities and developers to manage wildlife better and to ensure conservation is not an afterthought."

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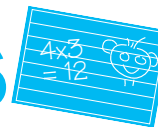
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BREAK TIME

Dancers show their X factor at big game

TALENTED dancing queens had a taste of stardom when they performed with X Factor winner Alexandra Burke in front of 60,000 rugby fans.

The 16 performers from New Line Learning Academy (NLL) in Loose danced on stage with the chart-topper at the St George's Day rugby match at Twickenham on Saturday, April 24.

The pupils, from Years 9 to 12, performed a routine they had learnt to the singer's hits Broken Heels and Bad Boys alongside other Kent pupils.

NLL dance teacher Nicky Ansell said: "The students worked hard to give a polished, professional performance that added to Twickenham's St George's Day celebrations and was an experience each and every one of them will never forget."

Before the dance troupe jumped on stage they also met TV star Tyger Drew-Honey, 13, better known as Jake from the BBC One sitcom Outnumbered.

The opportunity was organised by Aimhigher, a national group that encourages youngsters to raise their aspirations and participate in higher education.



IN STEP: Performing alongside Alexandra Burke

Pupils are on the ball in campaign for education

■ BY ANNA WHITE

DETERMINED schoolchildren have joined the likes of football ace Rio Ferdinand and singer Shakira to help every youngster in the country have an education.

The pupils at East Borough Primary School, in Maidstone, have signed up to promote a new nationwide initiative that aims to secure a school place for the 72 million children across the world currently not studying.

The campaign – 1Goal – Send My Friend To School – is supported by a string of celebrities, including the captain of the England football team, Ferdinand, and the team's manager Fabio Capello.

The England and Manchester United player said: "I believe every child has the right to an education and that's why I'm supporting 1Goal and asking football fans across the world to join today."

Organisers have launched the scheme to coincide with the World Cup 2010.

During the eagerly anticipated tournament, schools are urged to host a football-themed assembly to teach their students the importance of education and why they should help other children learn.

So far, more than 4,000 schools have signed up, including the Maidstone-based staff and students.

Teacher Helen Sinfield, from East Borough Primary School, said: "We have a varied mix of children from different backgrounds and cultures."



KICK-OFF: England captain Rio Ferdinand is supporting the 1Goal campaign to help all children get into education

"We feel it is very important for our children to view learning and education in a worldwide context and hope that by contributing to the 1Goal campaign we can raise their awareness of global issues and encourage them to relate to the lives of children who are the same age as them but who have a very different life experience of childhood and education."

The initiative aims to collect 72 million signatures, each one representing a child missing out on school, to remind world leaders of the promise made in 2000 to get every youngster a quality education by 2015.

The petition will be delivered to Downing Street with giant supporter scarves made by the pupils in the World Cup assemblies.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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YOUR LETTERS



Look to Christ, not politics, for hope

Is it any wonder at the great falling away from Christianity, when Bishops like the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott put their faith in politicians, the UN and other failed organisations of mankind, rather than Jesus Christ? (yourmaidstone May 5).

If he bothered to read his Bible, rather than subscribe to his Church's fairy stories and the belief the world is doomed to suffer into perpetuity, he would know all that we see has already been prophesied!

Indeed in Matthew 24, where Christ's disciples asked the signs of his return, Christ provides a very comprehensive list of conditions as they are today!

If the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott wants to continue claiming he's doing Christ's work, then he should be looking to Christ as his saviour and following his teachings, not looking to the world's corrupt and failed political systems and their teachings.

Phil Granger, West Malling

• Like many men of the cloth the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott appears to be a man of much wisdom and makes good sense until, alas, he inevitably brings God into it.

Obviously I, like many others, don't think that God made me, whether unique or otherwise, and the Bishop's assertion to the contrary makes me question the value of his other remarks, however ostensibly sensible they seem.

I have noticed that clerics often tend to bring God and religion into everything. I wish they wouldn't.

**Ian Macmillan
Ash**

• Definitely not with the Bishop. One big regret that could have helped millions of us, why did we not get solar power (hot water for every household) as a Millennium gift and celebration?

Why don't the polluters pay, why do the greatest benefit cheats in government circles cite immunity from prosecution? Why are databases and intrusion into our private lives being rolled out? Feels like collective punishment is going to get worse in England, no matter who gets 'elected'.

Phoney Blair's heir, Dave Cameron, reminds me of a snake oil salesman. The damage done to my area by socially-divisive, culturally destructive, sanctimonious and smug Tories is distressing. As a veteran US investor said

yourblogger

Gary Wright says MPs would rather have a hung parliament than let us decide their fate again soon



THE forecasters got it wrong, but the exit poll was spot on in predicting the un-decideds didn't have the bottle to vote Lib-Dem and most of the 'newly engaged' first-time voters couldn't actually be bothered to vote at all.

As I write the Lib Dem party is in its fourth day of negotiations with the Tories to form a majority government. Despite their inherent differences, it seems likely the two will find a way to work together.

Cameron's Tories can taste power and will do whatever they need to secure Clegg's support.

And by representing more than 60 per cent of the electorate, it's not a bad thing. Probably.

Electoral reform actually seems quite a good idea although you could argue no one actually voted for it. When the election was announced I celebrated the fact that for four weeks our voices would be heard.

As I said then, French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau summed up our system 250 years ago when he wrote the English are mistaken in thinking they are free: "It is free only during the election of members of parliament; as soon as the members are elected, the people is enslaved."

Now we are sidelined, though I rather admired the 1,000 or so protestors for PR who turned up outside Lib-Dem HQ on Saturday. It's too late though, MPs are elected – now they'll do as they like.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

last week, the Euro is unlikely to survive long term. Despite the claptrap we were fed to get us into the EU, thankfully we have not been entirely sucked into the Euro-mess.

I am thankful to Ian Taylor of NotoIDcards. His Sunday blog was spot on – sham democracy through more crazy policies like the Big Society is not required. As floating voters and non-voters have declared, we need to get rid of the rotten system and the rotters running it, otherwise what are we voting for?

More of the same, from what I can read between the platitudes and false assurances.

We need protection, stability and full employment, but no party will curb, restrain or hard-prune the overgrowth and financial damage of rampant bureaucracy.

The poor are forced to pay for the rich in England's thiefdoms – who is there to redress the balance and give us a chance? Not those who take bonuses for turning up on time and meeting anti-social inhumane and senseless targets and socially useless policies eg. affordable housing or big brother shared ownership with oligopolic arm's length housing associations?

The Big Society is already alive and kicking – Cameron will tweak it, but wants to shift responsibility rather than cure the disease.

Rita Grootendorst, by email

• As someone once said if you want nobody to run your life ... Vote for nobody.

I sympathise with the view of not voting and the idea of a 'None of the Above' box, but in the current circumstances with the far right on the rise, it is important to keep them well out.

I hope wherever the far right and Greens for example are both standing, people who oppose the main parties voted Green.

Ray Duff, by email

Green support helped Caroline on her way

Kent Green Party members were involved in the enormous effort which has helped Caroline Lucas to become MP for Brighton Pavilion.

The 11 Green Party candidates who stood in the county supported Caroline's successful campaign.

Kent Green Party is delighted the long effort to get into the House of Commons has finally succeeded.

Caroline Lucas MP and her campaign team raised the Green vote from third place to first.

This achievement will help increase members and support for the Party elsewhere.

Kent candidates, several standing in places previously uncontested by the Green Party, achieved reasonable results, but also many new members and supporters.

The Party regrets the electoral system did not deliver a genuinely fair result and supports proportional representation.

We now look forward to a Parliament which may change the

electoral system for Westminster, for local government and also create an elected House of Lords.

Kent residents should note that they will not be losing a Green Party Member of the European Parliament. Under European election rules, when an MEP leaves Parliament they are replaced by the next person on their Party list avoiding the ludicrous cost, time and effort of a by-election.

So councillor Keith Taylor, from Brighton, will shortly replace Caroline as MEP.

**Steve Dawe
Kent Green party spokesman**

Do you want free rail travel for over 60s?

Are you over 60? Do you enjoy using your travel card on the buses?

Would you like to use your travel card on the railways? If so then join our campaign – Freedom For The Over 60s on The Railways.

During the day, at off-peak periods, many trains run with empty carriages. These carriages could be filled with pensioners.

The government might say they do not have the money to introduce such a scheme, but this is not true.

The government subsidises the privately-owned railway companies with millions of pounds of taxpayers' money every year.

All the government has to say to these private companies is 'we will subsidise you, but only if you fill

your carriages with pensioners using their free travel cards'. At least then, some taxpayers would get something back for their money.

There is a lot of support for this campaign from the general public, but it needs a lot more supporters to help by writing to their MPs.

Without the help of those who will benefit from free travel the campaign will be killed off, so please help by putting pen to paper right away.

For more information write to The Medway Pensioners Forum, 5a New Road Avenue, Chatham, ME4 6BG.

**Peter Nassan
Medway Pensioners Forum**

Financial assistance for cancer patients

Money worries should be the last thing on your mind following a cancer diagnosis, but in fact patients tell Macmillan Cancer Support they're second only to pain in causing them stress and anxiety.

Macmillan knows that the bills don't stop just because you are ill and so provides benefits advisers in local communities and calls for a better financial deal for people affected by cancer.

But sometimes, more immediate relief is called for and that's why the charity gave out over £203,989 to 632 people in Kent last year, specifically to help those who were struggling to pay their bills after a cancer diagnosis.

Our grants can make a real difference to someone with cancer in desperate need, but they cannot be a permanent solution.

That's where our local Macmillan benefits advisers and phone line can help.

Cancer can have a devastating effect on people's finances, especially if they have to give up work. There is money in the Government pot, but people don't always know it's available or are reluctant to claim. Often people are too ill to fill out the long and complicated claim forms.

Most people who claim for grants need money for fuel bills, followed closely by a need for new clothes. Help with the cost of getting to hospital and parking is the third biggest issue; but the charity also gives money for household items, such as washing machines, to make life easier, as well as items that help individuals continue with activities they enjoy.

For example, a grant was recently given to a man with cancer of the larynx to help pay for a special swimming device, so that he could still enjoy swimming after his operation.

The oldest Macmillan grant beneficiary in 2009 was a 102-year-old lady with breast cancer who was still managing to live independently, despite her age and illness. Sadly, help was also required for 10 babies.

If you or a family member have been diagnosed with cancer, you can ring Macmillan free on 0800 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk to find out what help is available.

Richard Shaw, Macmillan

TOO FULL?
Rochester
Prison is
one of
many in
the county



Overcrowded jails in 'crisis'

A PENAL reform charity has criticised the justice system after figures revealed prisons are overcrowded by more than 100 per cent.

HMP Canterbury, which contains only foreign prisoners, was listed at number nine in the top 20 most overpopulated prisons in England and Wales. The report, by the Howard League for Penal Reform, showed the jail was certified for use for 195 prisoners, but the population in March, 2010, was 303.

Frances Crook, director of the charity, called it a "crisis", adding: "Overcrowding results in fewer resources being available for each prisoner. Consequently, prison services focus on maintenance of basic amenities more than reintegration and security, more than purposeful activity and rehabilitation."

A total of 80 prisons out of the 139 in England and Wales are overpopulated, with around 19,000 inmates sharing a cell designed for just one person. On average, prisons are overcrowded by 111 per cent.

A spokesman from the prison service said the Ministry of Justice was unable to comment on HMP Canterbury.

He added: "Since April, 2007, over 7,500 places have been delivered under the capacity programme."

Girls just want to raise funds

■ BY MARIJKE COX

THE voices of 100 Kent women and a host of celebrities have hit the airwaves in a bid to top the charts and raise money for cancer research.

Music moguls hope their remake of 1980s classic Girls Just Want to Have Fun will reach number one as millions of women take to the streets in this year's 5km Race for Life, which is being held at towns across the UK over the next three months.

As the country's largest female-only event, the campaign, led by Cancer Research UK, has raised more than £300m since it first launched in 1994. And this year, as well as gearing up for Kent's six Race for Life events, 100 women lent their voices for the new charity single, released earlier this month.

Some of those involved in the recording, which took place at Bluewater in February, have had their own struggles with cancer.

They feature alongside 20 celebrities, including actress Caroline Quentin, glamour model Danielle Lloyd, TV presenter Zoe Salmon and actress and singer Kym Marsh.

DJ Sonique – famous for her number one hit It Feels So Good – also took part; stepping back into the limelight following her own battle with



GIRLS ALOUD: Singing for charity during the recording session at Bluewater are Carol Decker from 80s band T'Pau, Su-Elise Nash from former girlband Mis-Teeq and Lisa Scott-Lee, former Steps member; right is Caroline Quentin

breast cancer. The singer has just finished six weeks of radiotherapy after three operations to remove a cancerous lump.

The 41-year-old said: "Knowing the single features women who, like me, have been directly affected by cancer, as well as hundreds of women from across the UK, makes me feel extremely proud."

"Recording the single was so much fun and meeting other women who wanted to do their bit to help the cause was really inspirational."

"I hope this inspires people to buy the track



and inspires every woman, whether they want to walk, jog, or run, to sign up for a Race for Life this year too."

Race for Life is now in its 17th year, with more than 700,000 taking part last year and £60m raised for Cancer Research UK's lifesaving work.

To sign up for an event in your area or for more information about the single, priced at 79p for download, go to www.raceforlife.org.

Money raised through the single will go to Cancer Research UK.

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DAY & NIGHT

Jazz date with Donn

ENJOY an evening of live jazz with the Donn Barcott Band in Gillingham on Thursday.

The band performs at the 44Two Club in Featherby Road on the second Thursday of each month, from 8.30-11pm. Refreshments are available. For more information call the Jazz Line on 01634 405037.

Rock 'n' roll with Ricky

DANCE the night away when rock 'n' roll tribute act Ricky Fontayne visits Maidstone.

The 50s and 60s singer invites you to an evening of musical nostalgia at East Farleigh Social Club in Maidstone on Saturday. For details of the venue call 01622 728048. Find out more at www.rickyfontayne.com.

Boleyn girl revealed

LEARN about the life of the Other Boleyn Girl when expert author Alison Weir gives a talk at Chatham Library.

Weir has researched Mary Boleyn for 40 years and will soon be releasing a new biography. The talk starts at 7.30pm on Thursday and admission is free. Book places on 01634 337799 or email chatham.library@medway.gov.uk.

Play tribute to director

A CLASSIC Alan Bennett play will be staged in memory of actor and director, Peter Goldsmith.

Habeas Corpus is performed by the Lenham Players at Lenham Community Hall at 7.45pm on Friday and Saturday. Priced at £8, tickets are available from Len Valley News, Lenham Village Stores and on 01622 858561. A percentage of profits will go to Cancer Research UK.

Face painting in park

TURN your little monsters into dazzling creatures when face painting is offered at Shorne Woods Country Park.

Face painters will work their magic at the park in Gravesend from noon to 4pm on Sunday. The service costs £3 and booking is not required.

Get the Abba habit

EXPERIENCE the authentic sound of an ABBA concert when a top tribute act brings its magic to Maidstone.

ABBA Forever will perform a stunning show packed with greatest hits, funky choreography and great musicianship at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone at 8pm on Friday. Tickets cost £15.50. Book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call 01622 758611.

Classics at last concert

A CONCERT of popular classics brings the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra's 40th anniversary season to a close on Saturday.

The programme starts with Rossini's William Tell Overture and ends with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. The concert at Chatham's Central Theatre starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £13/£11/£9. To book call 01634 338338 or visit www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.



X Factor's Ben going it alone

BEN MILLS

Friday, May 14
Pizza Express, Maidstone



FOUR years on from his X Factor experience, Ben Mills has risen above his 15 minutes of fame to carve out an enduring music career.

Unlike many aspiring stars who become well-known through the ITV talent show, the former marquee erector from Whitstable is still steadily making his way in the business. While countless others have disappeared back into obscurity, Mills is continuing to win fans and impress his peers with his commitment to music.

Earlier this year, Mills released his long-awaited second album, Freedom, which finally enabled him to step out from the shadow of The X-Factor and record self-penned songs of his own choice. The album also features collaborations with Mark Owen, of Take That fame, and Paul Barry, who has worked with James Morrison.

Mills has been far from idle over the last four years, performing all over the country and earning rave reviews for his live performanc-

es. A gifted musician, he plays both piano and guitar and has also been working on his song-writing skills.

Music is now his full-time profession, but things were very different back in the summer of 2006, before a certain music mogul turned Mills' life upside down.

Mills began that fateful day by putting up marquees as usual, before heading for London to keep his date with destiny. Having made it through to see Simon Cowell and his fellow judges, Mills blew them all away with his gravelly version of Sam Cooke's Bring It On Home To Me. Sharon Osbourne, Louis Walsh and Paula Abdul all agreed with Cowell's enthusiastic 'yes' and Mills sailed through to the next round.

Throughout the competition, Mills continued to wow the judges and audiences with his unusual voice, which drew comparisons to Joe Cocker and Rod Stewart. He was something of a dark horse, really standing out from the competition and the ranks of aspiring pop stars.

With the help of the show's stylists, he evolved from an untidy outdoor worker to a smooth and classy-looking potential rock star. He developed a new appreciation of the importance of image and took it with him even after the show had finished.

But although this side of the experience had a positive effect on Mills' future career, he found some aspects of the show a little controlling and disliked being told which songs to sing and in which style.

Mills eventually claimed third place in the competition, beaten only by runner-up Ray Quinn and winner Leona Lewis, who has gone on to become an international sensation. But by the end of the series, Mills had become such a popular contestant that he was offered a record deal and his debut album, Picture of You, was released in March 2007 to huge success.

With the marquee company now being run by his family, Mills has been able to concentrate full-time on making a success of his music career and so far the signs are good.

He has also been getting involved in the Kent community and has become patron of Walk With Michael, which was established in memory of Michael Chapman. The teenager from Sittingbourne was attacked and killed in a playing field in 2006. Michael's family now campaigns to prevent violence against children and Mills has lent his name to the cause.

Ben Mills will be performing in the Music Room at Pizza Express in Earl Street at 8pm. Tickets cost £24 and can be booked online at www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.



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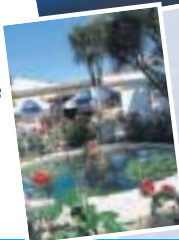
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IS THAT A BOLT IN YOUR NECK?

Saturday, May 15, Village Hall, Bredhurst

SCREAM with laughter as Gonzo Moose presents the comedy horror, *Is That a Bolt In Your Neck?*

Taking its inspiration from the classic 1930s horror movies, the show takes audiences on a terrifying yet entertaining ride into a dark and disturbing world.

When you are lost in the middle of a frightening thunder storm, what can you do but take refuge at the scary old house that looms in the distance? Is the place really a safe retreat when you can hear moaning in the middle of the night?

By blending farce, paranoia

and the surreal stuff of nightmares, the fast-paced show manages to tickle the funny bone while making your hair stand on end.

Playing more than 30 roles between them, three actors bring this petrifying world to life with their horrific experiments, bizarre romance and a death-defying finale that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7. To book call 01634 361263.

The show visits Bredhurst as part of Applause Rural Touring's spring season.



THE SOLID SILVER 60S SHOW

Sunday, May 16, Central Theatre, Chatham

CELEBRATE the best of British music when The Solid Silver 60s Show brings a stellar line-up to Kent.

For its 25th anniversary tour, the production has assembled a fantastic bill of iconic bands including special guests, The Troggs. Kent-based group Vanity Fare (pictured) will also be performing in this evening of nostalgic musical entertainment.

With their hit songs such as *Wild Thing* and *Love Is All Around*, The Troggs – whose line-up includes two founder members, front man Reg Presley and lead guitarist Chris Britton – the band continues to delight audiences.

During the 60s, the Swinging Blue Jeans were one of the most famous bands of the Merseybeat era. Charismatic performer Dave Berry scored hits with *Mama* and much-covered *The Crying Game*, while Mike Pender was the original voice of *The Searchers*.

Brian Poole achieved a number of top five hits with *The Tremeloes* and Peter Sarstedt topped the charts with his Ivor Novello Award-winner, *Where Do You Go To (My Lovely)*.

Performances start at 3pm and 7.30pm. Tickets cost £20/£18 for the afternoon show and £22/£20 for the evening. To book call 01634 338338 or visit www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.



BRENDAN COLE LIVE AND UNJUDGED

Monday, May 17, Orchard Theatre, Dartford



AS the bad boy of ballroom dancing, Brendan Cole has pulses racing both on and off the dance floor.

The Kiwi firebrand has become one of *Strictly Come Dancing*'s biggest stars and is well-known for his daring choreography. Having partnered some of the show's sexiest female contestants, Cole has had the chance to show off his flair for racy moves and has never been afraid to take the judges to task.

But now fans can see more of Cole as he presents a high-energy show full of sizzling dance routines, performed with a hand-picked cast of championship dancers and a 14-piece live band. The line-up includes Cole's brother Scott, who has been New Zealand champion three times, and former *Strictly* professionals, Izabela Hannah, Andrew Cuerden, Hanna Haarala and Nicole Cutler, who is also World Latin American Champion.

From the sensual tango to the romantic waltz, Cole will be presenting a dance extravaganza that should not be missed.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost from £27.50 to £31.50. Book at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.



TRANSITIONS DANCE COMPANY

Friday, May 14, The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford



NEW works by three exciting choreographers can be seen when Transitions Dance Company visits Kent.

Angela Woodhouse is renowned for her site-specific work, but she returns to the traditional theatre stage with *Endings*. Aiming to highlight the human awareness of place and the present, *Endings* is performed to the theatre's ambient sound and explores the areas where private and public spaces meet.

Themes of conformity and stereotypes are portrayed in Cameron McMillan's *Blind Action*, which is performed to *Cube*, an ensemble percussion score by Murray Hickman. Performed on cubes of scaffolding using instruments such as tom-toms, hubcaps and metal plates, the music mirrors the idea of restricted structure that McMillan's piece explores.

The unpredictability of love and relationships is seen in *No...No...* by Colin Poole, which is a collaboration with composer Angus Finlayson. The work uses both movement and costume to represent the boundaries between tenderness and aggression, devotion and manipulation.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10/£6. To book call 01322 291100.



A HANDFUL OF HENNA

Thursday, May 13 and Saturday, May 15
Gravesend and Sittingbourne



TWO generations embark on a voyage of personal discovery in *A Handful of Henna*.

Rasa Productions presents an enchanting story about a homecoming, adventure, fear and joy, in which a mother and daughter develop a new understanding.

When 13-year-old Nasreen is taken to India for a family wedding, she resents being separated from her friends in England. With texting banned, Nasreen does not believe the trip will be much fun.

But for her mother, Saheeda, returning to India offers a chance to relive both her happy childhood and the not-so-happy events that led to her departure.

Inspired by the real-life stories of Muslim women, the play is Rasa's latest production to explore cultural, social and political issues.

A Handful of Henna can be seen at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend at 7.30pm on Thursday and at the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne, at 7.30pm on Saturday.

To book tickets for the Gravesend performance, priced at £6, call 01474 337774 or visit www.woodvillehalls.com.

Tickets for the Sittingbourne date cost £7/£5 and can be booked on 01795 471140 or emailing admin@avenuetheatre.co.uk.



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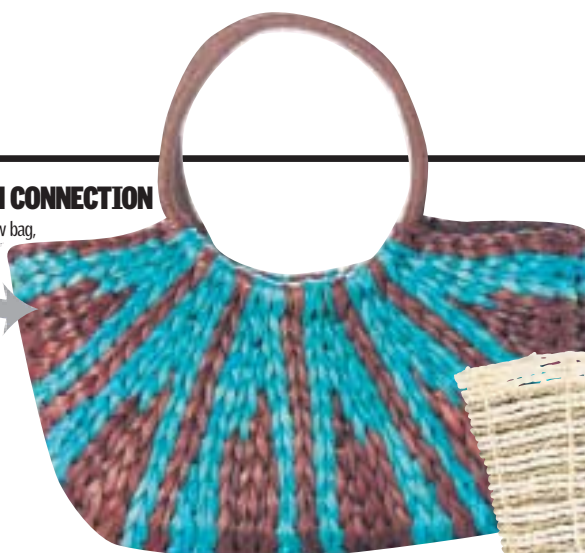


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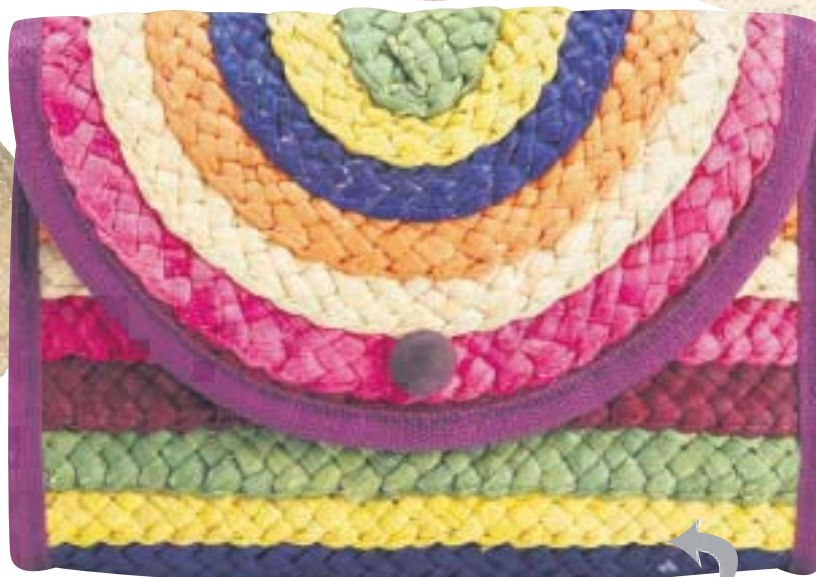
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WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Oriental single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH? Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5ft6, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tail, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, W/LTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walking, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE Curvy brunette, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life! Ashford. Box 849706

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft6, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, walking, seeks loving, loyal man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

MAGIC IN MARGATE Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, walking, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

FAMILY LIFE Fun to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. With a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983



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HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT... Shy female, 40, 5ft6, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 33yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

MANY INTERESTS Hi, I'm based in Ashford and I'm looking for a nice guy in the area. I'm a single mum, 42 and enjoy cooking, and cosy nights. Box 468148

IT COULD BE US Professional, single woman, 42, easygoing and fun to be with, seeking a single, professional, solvent white male, 44-52 Tunbridge Wells. Box 798931

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft6, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129

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NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

GET CLOSE Funny, cheerful lady, 44, 5'6", curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. Looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 467518

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. W/LTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617

COME ON OVER Fun-loving girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Rainham. Box 854480

GENIE IN A BOTTLE Slim blue-eyed blonde, 47, 5ft4, attractive lover with no ties, very sociable, non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

NORMAL GAL Happy, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 48 and over 30 at must. Maidstone. Box 866380

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single lady, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

BY MY SIDE Curvy woman, 49, 5ft10, I enjoy being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, cross-words, and reading. Seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

DON'T PASS ME BY Petite brunette, 51, 5ft, likes live music, pubs and socialising, gsoh, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relationship. Hastings. Box 467807

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

WRITTEN IN THE STARS Late 40's woman, slim, quite active, attractive, enjoy walks, picnics, the countryside, TV dramas, seeking a Pisces or Scorpio or Cancer male. Brighton. Box 468610

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

LOVE AND LAUGHTER AND HAPPY TIMES Petite woman, 53, with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes, 5'3", enjoys socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a tall, honest man. Gillingham. Box 858610

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

QUALITY TIME 55 year old lady, 5ft6in, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, quite fit, enjoys the outdoors, lots of walking, politics, family time with the right man. Box 848381

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SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

MUST LOVE ANIMALS Light-hearted lady, 57, light hair, blue eyes, 5ft3, enjoys baking, gardening and DIY, seeks romantic non-smoker for romance. Rochester. Box 468691

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448565

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

HOMELY LADY Easygoing lady, 61, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then we'll see. Folkestone. Box 466963

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

OUTGOING LADY Young looking lady, 62, 5ft6, blonde hair/hazel eyes. I have GSOH and like music, bowls, cinema country pubs. W/LTM man, 55-65 for friendship and more. Canterbury. Box 468269

START A NEW CHAPTER 64 year old widow, 5ft6, slim and fit, active and healthy, likes walks, theatre, gardening a social woman seeking similar non-smoking gent in Canterbury area. Box 467844

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes me time, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

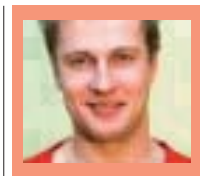
LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer/looking for loving companion. Box 450317

MAKE YOUR MARK Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

COME ON OVER Professional personal trainer, 42, 5ft10, green eyes, brown hair, athletic, seeking a female, 25-45, for fun times and friendship. Chatham. Box 468675

FUN & OUTGOING? Young at heart 44yr old male, stocky build, 5ft10, Kent based, father, honest and down-to-earth, likes music, nights in, walking the dog, seeks genuine lady. Box 851804

GOT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR? Malcolm, 43, dark-haired, 5ft10, spent a long time on the shelf so looking for chats, friendship and maybe more with a film and music fan. Box 451581



MEN seeking women

FOR LOVE Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! Likes going/seeing out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

FULL OF LIFE Ashford man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 6ft6, with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy pubs/clubs, eating out etc. Box 467416

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

CAN YOU PUT UP WITH ME? Hi I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503

HOP ON BOARD! Average bloke, 38, shy! Seeks young lady, looks unimportant, single mums welcome. I love gardening and ring my moped. Sittingbourne. Box 468095

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR and a reliable and football, like together, with the right woman. Box 858113

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a love to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208

COME ON OVER TO MY PLACE Fun-loving male, 40, 6ft, short dark hair, brown eyes, enjoys most things in life, seeks slim female size 10-12 who's reasonably good looking. Box 456889

DO I ATTRACT YOU? Happy go lucky single dad, 40, looking for a slim female, -size 12, to share good times and happiness with. Hutton Box 457738

LOOK IN MY EYES Romantic, fun-loving man, 40, 6ft tall, with dark hair and brown eyes, looking for a kind, considerate and romantic female. Maidstone. Box 459006

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS Loving and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290

FISHING & CAMPING! Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer/looking for loving companion. Box 450317

MAKE YOUR MARK Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

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BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093
(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205
Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri | Email: louise@g8wave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

GSOH ESSENTIAL American male, 44, loves playing the guitar, looking for a decent female with a sense of fun about them. Brighton Box 461140

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Easygoing guy with wicked SOH, 45, 5ft11, slim-medium build, blue eyes and fair hair, loves animals, pubs and more, seeks loving lady for romance. E Sussex. Box 468369

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard working gent, 45, slim, 6ft, looking for full time relationship with a cinema, bowling and film lover! Gillingham. Box 468396

MAKE A MOVE Single dad, 45, white, likes cooking, gardening, and a passion for Reggae music, seeking a black woman for friendship and romance. Folkestone area. Box 468542

MUSIC LOVER Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Ashford. Box 467883

EASY TO LOVE Margate male, 46, tall and slim, easy-going, enjoy cinema, socialising and sport, looking for a decent lady, 40-55, for friendship and maybe a LTR. Box 468189

ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS Single guy, 47, 5ft8, been hurt in the past, works full time, looking for a Sussex-based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 468082

MEET YOUR MATCH! Slim single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include, fishing, football, day and cooking. Dover. Box 462630

NEEDING LOVE 47yr old Brighton based man, own home/business, seeks genuine local lady aged 45-50 years to share it all with. Box 463623

TAKE MY HAND Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50, Deal, Kent. Box 460441

LOVE SHOULD BE EASY Laid-back single guy, 48, from Hythe, 6ft, slightly overweight/trying to lose it, seeking a fun to be around female to takes things slow with. Box 468498

GET BACK TO ME Good looking divorced man, 49, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 468338

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL Ashford man, 54, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft4, divorced-grown up daughter, enjoy walking, days in/out, quiet drink and football, looking for an educated female, 40-60. Box 465231

DANCING THROUGH LIFE Active and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771

HAND IN HAND Easygoing man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 861243

AROUND AND AROUND Active male, 59, dark hair, 5'7, keeps fit, cycles, seeking a cuddly, curvy, mature lady for friendship. Canterbury. Box 467423

TAKE A CHANCE Kent gent, 57, like music, socialising, cinema, fishing and holidays abroad, looking for a wonderful lady, 50-60, for friendship and romance. Cranbrook. Box 468651

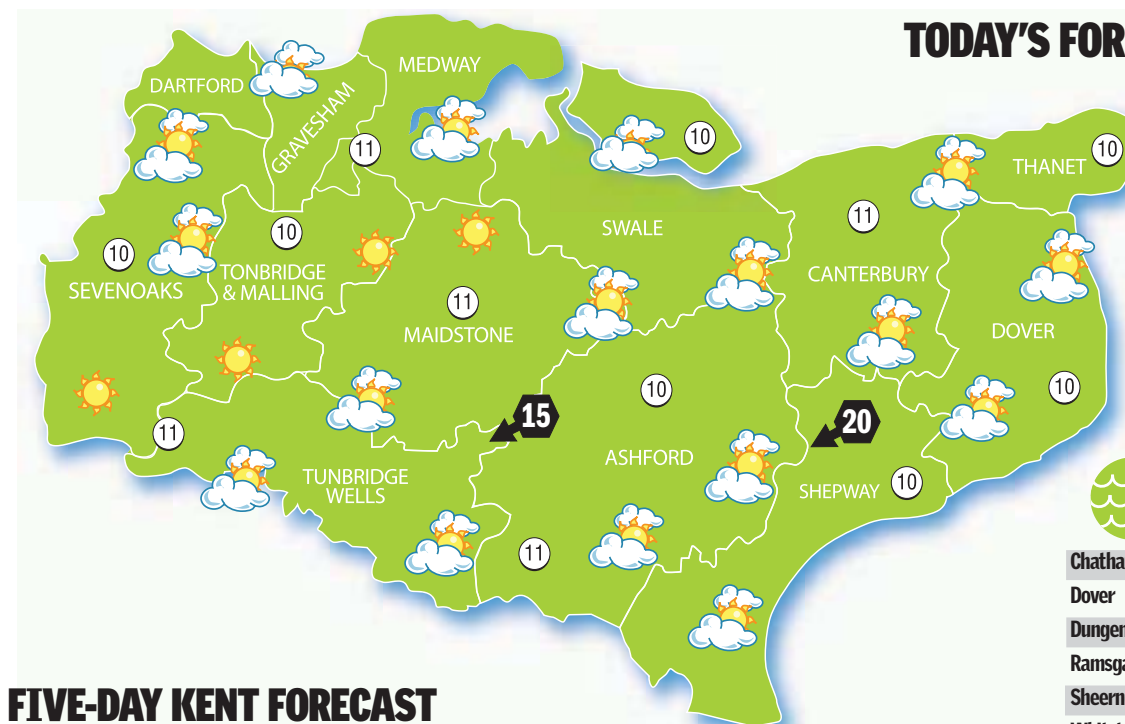
ONWARDS & UPWARDS Early 50s widower, very honest and genuine, loves rock music, violin player, great cook, school worker, just hoping to meet someone. Langley. Box 468690

GET TOGETHER Divorced male, 59, 5ft8in, slim with grey hair, likes gardening, fishing, cycling, walks, cooking, going out, travel, seeks a fun and similar woman. Aylesford. Box 468615

HELLO THERE! Sociable lad, 59, from Ashford, enjoy motor racing, films and watching television, looking for a lady to share the good things in life with. Box 465607

CONSIDER THIS Professional male, 50s, likes live music, eating in and out, W/LTM slim female, to share interests together. Sittingbourne. Box 453535

A NICE WALK? Genuine chap, 6



TODAY'S FORECAST






AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	15°C
Athens	24°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	19°C	Paris	14°C
Beijing	23°C	Rome	21°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	23°C
Cape Town	17°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	13°C	Tokyo	22°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	17°C
Hong Kong	24°C	Warsaw	17°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	17°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:28pm 6.0m	Sunday	3:06pm 5.9m
Dover	Saturday	12:33pm 6.4m	Sunday	1:16pm 6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:42pm 7.5m	Sunday	1:19pm 7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:03pm 4.9m	Sunday	1:46pm 4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:18pm 5.7m	Sunday	2:56pm 5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:14pm 5.1m	Sunday	2:54pm 5.1m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon											Whitstable					Saturday	2:14pm 5.1m		Sunday	2:54pm 5.1m			
Ashford	11°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	16°C	Dover	9°C	10°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	Gravesend	12°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	16°C	Sevenoaks	10°C	11°C	11°C	13°C	14°C		SUNRISE	508am	SUNSET	8.37pm
Canterbury	10°C	11°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	Faversham	10°C	11°C	12°C	13°C	15°C	Maidstone	12°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	16°C	Sittingbourne	10°C	11°C	12°C	13°C	15°C					
Chatham	10°C	11°C	12°C	13°C	15°C	Folkestone	9°C	10°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	Ramsgate	10°C	11°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	Tonbridge	11°C	12°C	14°C	14°C	16°C		MOONRISE	351am	MOONSET	7.19pm
Dartford	12°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	16°C	Gillingham	10°C	11°C	12°C	13°C	15°C	Rochester	10°C	11°C	12°C	13°C	15°C	Tun Wells	11°C	12°C	14°C	14°C	16°C					

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yourcompetition

DWAYNE Johnson is the Tooth Fairy, also known as Derek Thompson, a hard-charging hockey player whose nickname comes from his habit of separating opposing players from their bicuspid.

When Derek discourages a youngster's dreams, he's sentenced to one week's hard labour as a real tooth fairy, complete with the requisite wings and magic wand. At first, Derek "can't handle the tooth" – bumbling and stumbling as he tries to furtively wing his way through strangers' homes... doing what tooth fairies do. But as Derek slowly adapts to his new position, he begins to rediscover his own forgotten dreams.

One of today's most popular actors, Dwayne Johnson's juxtaposition of sharp comedic timing and impressive physicality has delighted audiences in pictures like *The Game Plan*, *Get Smart* and *Race to Witch Mountain*. His latest effort, *Tooth Fairy*, brings together several elements he thought would be fun to explore. "It's a story with universal appeal," says Johnson. "It's a fish-out-of-water tale about believing in the impossible and the magic. It's for families and everyone."

"The Tooth Fairy is part of our culture and part of the wonderment of being a child. It's a character that's never been explored, to this extent, in the movies."

To most of the world, the Tooth Fairy is a magical figure. Like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy is both an inspiring and comforting character who teaches children to use their imaginations – and to dream. And while there are no definitive renderings, most of us envision the Tooth Fairy as a gentle sprite

WIN! Tooth Fairy goodies TEN sets to giveaway...

who magically appears during a child's slumbers to take his or her newly-displaced tooth from under the pillow and replace it with money.

It's a safe bet that no one has imagined the Tooth Fairy to be a hockey player/"enforcer" – until Derek Thompson, beloved by his fans for his hyper-aggressive play on the ice, becomes the newest addition to ranks of Tooth Fairydom.

Yourlocal has ten sets of Tooth Fairy merchandise, which includes a Tooth Fairy T-shirt, Frisbee, toothbrush, Amnesia Dust, stationery set, tooth-shaped USB plus lots more to giveaway to ten lucky readers.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Tooth Fairy Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is May 30, 2010.

Question: Which famous wrestler is the Tooth Fairy?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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Welcome to more

yourmusic

Lounge favourites to headline folk stage



SWINGING TRIO: Kitty, Daisy and Lewis will headline the the LOTF folk stage

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

SWING siblings Kitty, Daisy and Lewis have been unveiled as Lounge on the Farm's folk stage headliners.

The London-based trio were hand-picked to top the Farm Folk tent by curators from the celebrated Flowerpot venue in Camden.

Also on the bill are Johnny Flynn, Peggy Sue, Beans on Toast, Lu Lu & The Lampshades and Medicine Show.

A Lounge spokesman said: "Camden's celebrated Flowerpot venue will be transporting their widespread reputation for showcasing quality music from their famous London haven to Merton Farm on Saturday 10th July to host the Farm Folk stage."

"With headliners and firm LOTF favourites Kitty, Daisy and Lewis already announced, the Flowerpot line-up will also include violin-fuelled goodness from Johnny Flynn, who will be celebrating the release of his forthcoming Been Listening album, much admired Wichita Recordings signed Brighton folksters Peggy Sue, country-rock sextet the Barker Band, pop-flavoured vaudeville from Alan Pownall and pure and primal rabble rousing from The Agitator."

Among the Lounge headliners are Motown greats Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, ska legends Toots & The Maytals, The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, DJ Yoda and Courtney Pine.

Lounge promoters are promising their fifth year will be the biggest and best yet.

The spokesman added: "With increased capacity, this year's Lounge On The Farm looks set to be the finest yet."

"We have a medley of musical pleasures – from local heroes and the next big things to the truly legendary – spread across seven stages, plus incredible comedy, theatre, burlesque and vaudeville treats, the kids' Little Lounge area and some of the most refined, locally sourced, rustic

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yourkenttv.co.uk



Belleville perform For You (Forever Young) in Canterbury.



Jus' Ben covers Keane's modern classic Everybody's Changing.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan – Times Change (from Deal)
- 2 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 3 Ron Bowdery – The Hooray Henries (from New Eltham)
- 4 Flipswitch – Position Politician (from Whitstable)
- 5 Gristlebridge – Wanna be Famous (from Whitstable)

refreshments to be found at any festival anywhere."

LOTF takes place at Merton Farm, Canterbury, from Friday, July 9, to Sunday, July 11.

A weekend adult ticket costs £95. Day tickets cost £40 for adults, £30 for youths and £20 for children.

For more information visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk

FARM FOLK LINE-UP: Kitty, Daisy & Lewis, Johnny Flynn, Peggy Sue, Barker Band, Alan Pownall, The Agitator, Beans on Toast, Rum Shebeen, The Musical Difference, Lu Lu & The Lampshades, Handshake, The Joke & The Thief, Medicine Show.



SEASIDE SPECTACULAR: Views from the Bournemouth Eye are stunning. Poole home to Sunseeker, builders of multi-millionaires' yachts

yourgetaways

Take a fresh look at top UK holiday destination

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

RECESSION and an Icelandic volcano have given a massive boost to the UK's tourism industry as Brits rediscover the brilliance of their homeland.

Bournemouth could not have picked a better time to emerge as one of the UK's top holiday resorts.

A long weekend seemed an ideal opportunity to find out why a resort once seen as quaint has not so much reinvented itself, as simply moved with the times in a way any number of British seaside towns have failed.

It is a leading destination for water sports fans – including surfing, water-skiing, diving and jetskiing – as well as having almost 10 miles of sandy beaches.

Boscombe to the east has Europe's first artificial surf reef (and beach 'pods' designed by Wayne Hemingway) and to the west Poole sits on the largest natural harbour in Europe – that means sheltered water and a fascinating history.

Bournemouth town centre and sea front on a late April weekend bustled with shoppers, families and students as bands played in the Lower Gardens – the place had a real buzz.

Eating out is a magnificent adventure with 400 restaurants and bars on offer, and I think we got lucky.

The Print Room, right opposite my hotel in the town centre, held a special interest for me situated as it is in the room where the press had lived for the town's evening paper.

Three years ago it was transformed into a 1930s-style eatery, with wooden seating booths complete with a mirror-backed bar, Swarovski chandeliers and a black-and-white chequered floor.

The food was excellent and, as one critic said, it is one of the south coast's best kept secrets.

The following day we enjoyed lunchtime cocktails and a superb Thai-style meal in the Aruba, situated unexpectedly through a doorway at the front of Bournemouth pier.

Climb a few stairs and you will be

KEY FACTS: BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE

Beaches	10 Miles, sandy
Watersports	Surfing, skiing... everything
Eating Out	400 restaurants and bars
Hotels	200, all prices, plus 200 B&Bs
Nightlife	Dozens of clubs



- Gary Wright was a guest of www.coastwiththemoost.com.
- He stayed two nights at the Norfolk Royale Hotel in Bournemouth which costs around £289 for two including breakfast.
- www.norfolk-royale-hotel.com
- Use the distinctive yellow taxis to get around and night buses run between Bournemouth and Poole.
- The excellent Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum is free entry. Recommended
- For a relaxed break, take a cruise from anywhere along the coast. www.dorsetcruises.co.uk
- In Bournemouth's Lower Gardens, the tethered hot air balloon offers spectacular views from 500ft. Choose a clear day and it's £12 for adults.

surprised by the airy space offering seaviews, packed with diners.

Do take a few minutes to find it, most locals know it, a lot of visitors miss it. Recommended.

And that evening we had been directed to the newly reopened Ventana Brasserie, part of the stunning Art Deco-styled Cumberland Hotel, a short taxi ride from Bournemouth centre.

The food was ambitious but good (and very reasonably priced), the staff were courteous and the gorgeous décor was in keeping with the building. You could almost have been in a 1930s Hollywood musical set. But the plasma TV with Sky sports news ruined the effect, even with the sound turned down.

Now don't think this weekend was one long food festival. Oh no, we managed to pop into the Oceanarium (near the pier), and saw turtles, sharks and a lot of fish.

I loved it, kids will love it and its one to keep up your sleeve if the weather turns nasty.

We also found time for a trip on the Bournemouth Eye, a huge tethered helium balloon soaring to 500ft out of the Lower Gardens.

Views were spectacular, one of the signs I'm sure claimed 60 miles, but the sea mist curbed that a little.

By Sunday lunchtime we'd moved on to Poole. A different proposition from Bournemouth yet closely related. The old town really is, well, old with a sprinkling of little shops, yet still has the feel of a working harbour.

Then it was time to eat again: Sunday lunch at the Custom House, overlooking the quay and the world-famous Sunseeker boatyard (I use the term in the way one might call Wembley simply a football ground) which added glamour.

So replete, again (splendid three-course Sunday lunch) we wander around the Poole Pottery then relaxed with a quiet drink on the harbour front and reflected this part of Britain offers so much... and it's only a couple of hours drive from Kent.



KOS 19



**FREE
BAR** **OVER
40s ONLY**

Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange

Norton Grange is a friendly Warner Resort situated on the Isle of Wight coast just outside Yarmouth. Join us for a fun-filled **Christmas Party** - for over 40s only - featuring cabaret and variety entertainment and more. Get into the festive spirit with good food and great entertainment - and a **Free Bar** every day - perfect for a pre-Christmas get together.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **FREE drinks** from 15.30hrs to 23.00hrs on Friday and 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include tea/coffee, pumped soft drinks & mixers, wine by the glass, house beers & spirits.
- **Full programme of variety entertainment and activities**
- **Meals:** 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi
- **Travel:** Self drive with car ferry included

Friday, November
5 to 8, 2010
Tour **NG11-2-KOS**

**3 NIGHTS
FROM
ONLY**

£199^{pp}

**SELF DRIVE
CAR FERRY INCLUDED**



**FREE
BAR** **OVER
50s ONLY**

Mamma Mia Christmas Party at Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Join us for an early Christmas Party on the Isle of Wight for over 50s only. Warner's luxurious Bembridge Coast Hotel will resound to the sights and sounds of Abba as our fabulous party weekend includes a screening of Mamma Mia the Movie, an Abba Tribute Band playing live, a Free Bar every night and a Fireworks display. You're also assured of Warner's quality hallmark - great food, great entertainment and great facilities.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **Free Bar** from 6pm to 11pm every day (not departure day) for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Variety Entertainment & Activities programme** including Abba Tribute Band & Mamma Mia movie screening
- **Meals:** 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing an en-suite Ambassador room - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna
- **Travel:** Self drive with car ferry included

Friday, November
12 to 15, 2010
Tour **MM11-KOS**

**3 NIGHTS
FROM
ONLY**

£259^{pp}

**SELF DRIVE
CAR FERRY INCLUDED**



**FREE
BAR** **OVER
40s ONLY**

Carry on New Year Party at Warner Sinah Warren

Here's an opportunity - for over 40s only - to extend the New Year celebrations at Sinah Warren, Warner's luxury hotel on Hayling Island. There'll be live entertainment every evening and, to help the party go with a swing, there's Free Drinks too. You can also expect the Warner hallmark of quality accommodation and great food - a varied breakfast menu and a 3-course dinner with a wide choice including a carvery.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **FREE drinks** from 15.30hrs to 23.00hrs on Friday and 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include tea/coffee, pumped soft drinks & mixers, wine by the glass, house beers & spirits.
- **Full programme of entertainment & activities**
- **Meals:** 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi
- **Travel:** Self-drive

Friday, January
7 to 10, 2011
Tour **WS1-KOS**

**3 NIGHTS
FROM
ONLY**

£229^{pp}

SELF DRIVE



**FREE
BAR** **OVER
40s ONLY**

Come Dancing at Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Our Bembridge Dance breaks - for over 40s only - were a sell-out in 2009 & 2010 and, due to popular demand, we're doing it all again in 2011. There will be Ballroom and Latin dancing, dance tuition for beginners and improvers, top dancers in cabaret and a Grand Ball - dress up and dance the night away. And with an 8,860sq ft dance floor, dancers will not be short of space. There's plenty going on for non-dancers, and, there's Free Drinks too.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **FREE drinks** from 15.30hrs to 23.00hrs on Friday and 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include tea/coffee, pumped soft drinks & mixers, wine by the glass, house beers & spirits.
- **Full programme of variety entertainment and dancing** including top dancers in Cabaret & dance tuition PLUS a Grand Ball
- **Meals:** 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool & sauna
- **Travel:** Self drive with car ferry included

Friday, January
14 to 17, 2011
Tour **WB1-KOS**

**3 NIGHTS
FROM
ONLY**

£259^{pp}

**SELF DRIVE
CAR FERRY INCLUDED**

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ABTA Y0291

Iron Man 2 is not such a Marvel

■ BY DAMON SMITH

DIRECTOR Jon Favreau's first encounter with the Marvel Comics superhero was one of the most exhilarating diversions of the 2008 summer blockbuster season.

The film's heady conflation of dazzling special effects, playful performances and sizzling screen chemistry between Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow jet-propelled the film to gargantuan box office takings in excess of half a billion dollars.

Money talks loudly in Hollywood and so, inevitably, Favreau and most of his cast return for the sequel.

The weight of expectation on Iron Man 2 would test even the strength of the eponymous hero's red and gold armour and regrettably, the turbo-charged sequel misfires.

Screenwriter Justin Theroux struggles to integrate the new characters and to strike the same rumbustious tone as the first film.

However, he does incorporate several scenes of Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) which lay the groundwork for the forthcoming film of The Avengers featuring Iron Man, Captain America and The Incredible Hulk.

A brief sequence after the end credits continues to whet the appetite of ardent fans of the comics.

Billionaire industrialist Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr) announces to the world that he is Iron Man and buoys his over-inflated ego with the adulation of the masses.

He single-handedly maintains world peace to the chagrin of the US government and private investors, who are keen to acquire his technology for their own needs.

Stark refuses to share his invention, causing a furore at a Senate Armed Services Committee run by Senator Stern (Garry Shandling). Soon after, Russian physicist Ivan Vanko (Mickey Rourke), whose father helped pioneer the Iron Man technology, creates a crude replica of the electromagnetic device in the industrialist's chest and transforms himself into the villainous Whiplash.

His attack on Stark during a grand prix compels the military to take action, seizing one of the suits.

Stark races to avert disaster aided by good friend 'Rhodey' (Don Cheadle), new secretary



SEQUEL: Scarlett Johansson, left, joins the cast of Iron Man 2, in which Robert Downey Jr plays the red and gold, arrogant but entertaining hero

There are a couple of cute one-liners – "Don't be mad. I'm fending off a Hammer-oid attack!" – but these are few and far between.

The rapport with Paltrow's sassy love interest energises several scenes and Rourke's tattooed villain is quietly compelling, destroying the myth of Iron Man because as he tells Stark, "If you can make God bleed then people will cease to believe."

Action scenes are slickly orchestrated but don't get the blood pumping and the final showdown is a huge anti-climax.

Like its egotistical central protagonist, the sequel feels tired.

IRON MAN 2 
Certificate 12A

Natalie Rushman (Scarlett Johansson) and chauffeur Happy Hogan (Jon Favreau).

Meanwhile, rival arms industrialist Justin Hammer (Sam Rockwell) concocts a plan to destroy Stark Industries, which is now under

the control of new CEO, Virginia 'Pepper' Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow).

Iron Man 2 is weighed down by the anguish of Downey Jr's inventor, who is being poisoned to death by the technology that keeps him alive.

PICTURE BBC



ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT: BBC's police drama Luther fails to bring anything new



YOUR TV REVIEW LUTHER: BBC One, 9pm, Tuesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

IDRIS Elba was in The Wire, which, in case you haven't heard is a legendary American cop show, that had critics frothing at the mouth with superlatives to describe its quality.

The imposing actor played the brooding, cerebral drug-dealer Stringer Bell and was one of the best TV characters of all time – no small praise there.

I never knew he was British until recently, which is a testament to just how well he carried off the role.

Not once did you hear him break into any accent other than that of Bell and he was utterly convincing.

The BBC obviously knew a good thing when they saw it, and snapped him up for Luther, its own big new cop drama. Here he very much takes centre stage, whereas in The Wire he was one of many who made up a terrific ensemble cast.

I usually avoid this kind of show like the plague, but thought I'd tune in on the strength of his casting.

The results are mixed, however.

Elba's performance is solid enough, but the show is too bogged down in clichés to really make much of an impression.

Like every TV cop with a maverick streak, John Luther has woman troubles, seems almost consumed by self-loathing and has flashback problems which give him a huge chip on his shoulder.

He broods a lot, too. He has a dark side, you see, and if you didn't see that coming a mile off then you should get down to Specsavers.

I accept that a cop drama might be hard going if the character was

whiter than white, but the same old plot devices come up time and time again.

Would it really be that hard to draw up something new, to make the character stand out from the crowd a bit?

The show is pretty nice to look at, and the streets of London are shot with panache, but was revealing the wrongdoer, before the plot unfolded, really a wise move?

Luther is not a disaster just a little unoriginal and by the book to really warrant too much praise.

There is certainly room for improvement and perhaps this will get better as we learn a bit more about why the character is the way he is.

Let's just hope for a few surprises along the way or this could tail off into just another cop show territory.

MOTORS NEWS



Audi baby meets small, but premium needs

ORDER books have opened on Audi's new premium baby car – the A1. It is smart and distinctive, in a sector increasingly important to well-heeled buyers.

Priced from £13,145 to £18,280, standard kit includes alloys, electronic stability control, electric mirrors and a six-speaker sound system with auxiliary/iPod connection. Power comes from turbocharged diesel and petrol units starting with a lively 86PS (84bhp) 1.2-litre that delivers a 0-62mph time of 11.7 seconds with 55.4mpg capability and low CO2 of 118g/km.



Peugeot sales boosted in its bicentennial year

APRIL saw another strong performance from Peugeot in the run up to its 200th anniversary in May.

While the overall UK car market reported an 11.5 per cent increase last month against April 2009, the French marque leapt 21.6, helped by a huge boost to sales of its HDi diesel models (+53.4).

Two of the other success stories were the Peugeot 3008 crossover (What Car? Car of the Year 2010) and the refined Peugeot 5008 (pictured and also What Car? MPV of the Year 2010).



Second edition Skodas are towing the Greeline

FOLLOWING facelifts for its Fabia supermini and Roomster MPV, Skoda Auto has unveiled Fabia Estate and Roomster GreenLine II versions.

These are second generation environmentally-friendly models from the Czech marque, with major changes including a new 1.2TDI diesel, start-stop technology and energy recuperation. The new engine delivers 83.1 mpg and CO2 emissions of 89 g/km in the Fabia estate version and 67.3 and 109 g/km respectively for the Roomster. Prices to be announced.



BEAUTY THAT'S A BEAST: Nissan's excellent 370Z represents superb value for money when compared to German sporty rivals such as the Audi TT, BMW Z4 and Porsche Boxster

Latest Z-Car continues to uphold proud legacy

NISSAN launched its original 'Z' sports coupé here in 1970's.

The dynasty has not always impressed like that debutante though – then known as a Datsun – but the beefy 2003 vintage 350Z marked an impressive return to form. And it made way last year for the excellent 370Z derivative tested here in flagship GT form.

This ticks open boxes left by its predecessor; nobody doubted the 350Z's value for money, but the newer car's cabin is closer to its £28,345 to £31,645 price band.

And while the 350Z appeared muscular, some saw it as porkiness; the 370Z is actually seven centimetres shorter yet looks more slim-waisted.

A rather intrusive bracing bar behind the 350Z's front seats has been lowered and camouflaged too, without affecting the stiffness of the car, which is also 32 kilos lighter.

But don't think the 'Z' has gone soft. The 328bhp 3.7-litre V6 – up from the 350Z's 309bhp – sounds brutal when challenged, revs cleanly (0-60mph in 5.3 seconds) yet feels refined and muted on a high-speed motorway dash.

Like its predecessor though, the 370Z can be

ROAD TEST NISSAN 370Z

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

hard work in traffic, with its heavy clutch and a six-speed gearshift that can feel lumpy at low speeds – the seven-speed auto option might be preferable if you want more all-round ability.

However, the manual option does have Synchro Rev Control (SRC). Nissan calls this "the world's first fully synchronised down/up shift rev control system allowing drivers of any skill level to experience perfectly smooth gear shifts every time." I turned it off soon though, preferring to blip the throttle myself.

The wheelbase is slightly shorter than before, but the rear-driven coupé is well-balanced and the direct steering and lively engine – in both the revs and sound departments – make for an exciting drive. A predictable and well-controlled tendency to step out slightly on the corners make it a real enthusiast's car – especially with the SRC switched off.

It also represents superb value.

Obvious German rivals to the 370Z series – a lovely roadster is also available from £30,445 – are the Audi TT, BMW Z4 and the Porsche Boxster/Cayman.

The Nissan cannot have the same badge cachet, but for ability and standard spec at bargain prices, it must not be ignored.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 16.6 (17.0) – 61.4 (4.6), extra-urban 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2), combined 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 274 – 98 g/km.

The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 08.04.10 and 06.07.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only. (Vaux91439)




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AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	7,995
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	9,995
09	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel silver	4,250	7,995
09	59	Agila Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	2,950	8,995
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Lemon Grass	1,350	9,495
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Moroccan Blue	1,266	9,495
09	59	Agila Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	3,900	9,495
10	59	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon Grass	2,790	8,995

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
01	51	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	78,350	2,995
07	07	Astra Design Auto Estate	1.8	5	Silver lightning	22,190	7,495
07	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X	1.6	3	Flame red	29,810	9,995
07	07	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Panacotta	30,350	6,995
07	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25,000	13,995
07	57	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	17,325	9,995
08	08	Astra Sri	1.8	5	Black sapphire	20,100	9,495
08	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	22,200	9,995
08	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightning	24,300	9,695
08	58	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	3	Star silver	10,100	12,995
08	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5,960	11,995
09	09	Astra Club	1.4	5	Silver lightning	18,218	9,495
09	09	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,710	14,995
09	59	Astra Active	1.6	5	Sovereign silver	4,780	10,995
09	59	Astra Sxi eco flex	1.7D	5	Sovereign silver	3,400	12,995

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Corsa Sxi +	1.2	3	Flame Red	57,600	4,995
07	07	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Tea Green	17,620	4,995
07	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star Silver	37,900	11,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze E/T	1.2	3	Flame Red	10,125	7,195
09	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star Silver	6,270	7,995

09	09	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Metro Blue	19,970	8,495
10	59	Corsa Active	1.0	3	Flame red	Delivery	7,995
10	59	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Ultra Blue	Delivery	8,995
09	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Silver Lightning	800	10,995
09	59	Corsa Sxi A/c X pack	1.4	3	Black Sapphire	10,150	10,995

INSIGNIA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
09	09	Insignia SE CDTi Nav	2.0	4	Technical grey	19,826	14,995
09	09	Insignia Sri CDTi	2.0	5	Satir silver	26,545	14,995
09	09	Insignia SE (160ps)	2.0	5	Star silver	18,985	14,995
09	59	Insignia Sri Nav CDTi	2.0	4	Black sapphire	7,350	17,995

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,295

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Tigra Exclusive Red	1.4	2	Metro blue	32,500	8,995
09	59	Tigra Air	1.4	2	Antigua	4,425	12,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Vectra Life CDTi Sat Nav	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	27,800	6,995
08	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25,050	8,695
08	08	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi + pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightning	41,700	8,795
09	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	18,325	9,995
08	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	8,995

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	05	Zafira Design CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Star silver	53,000	6,995
06	06	Zafira Active	1.8	5	Metro blue	38,050	7,495
07	07	Zafira Energy	1.6	5	Silver lightning	19,400	8,495
07	07	Zafira Exclusive	1.6	5	Black sapphire	28,320	7,995
08	58	Zafira Exclusive	1.6	5	Star silver	13,700	9,995
09	59	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9	5	Panacotta	2,200	17,495

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| 04 04 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT ESTATE 130 TDI HIGHLINE AUTOMATIC , SERVICE HISTORY,FULL BLACK LEATHER, CLIMATE, FULL ELECTRIC PACK, ALLOYS, STUNNING | £5995 |
| 55 05 RENAULT MEGANE 1.9DCI PRIVILEGE 5DR , FULL RENAULT SERVICE HISTORY, _ LEATHER, CLIMATE, CD + MULTICHANGE, ELECTRIC PACK, ALLOYS | £4995 |
| 04 04 PEUGEOT 607 HDI AUTOMATIC DIESEL 63000 MILES , PEUGEOT SERVICE HISTORY, CLIMATE, ELECTRIC PACK, ALLOYS, | £4995 |
| 02 02 AUDI A4 TDI SE 130 BHP ESTATE , MOTORWAY MILES, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, CLIMATE CONTROL / ELECTRIC WINDOWS & MIRRORS, ALLOYS | £4495 |
| 04 04 FORD MONDEO TDCI MISTRAL ESTATE , FULL SERVICE HISTORY, CD-RADIO, CLIMATE CONTROL, ALLOYS, ELECTRIC PACK, ROOF RAILS, | £3995 |
| 53 04 FORD MONDEO TDCI ZETEC 5 DOOR METALLIC RED , FULL SERVICE HISTORY, CLIMATE CONTROL, ELECTRIC PACK, ALLOYS, | £3995 |
| W 00 PEUGEOT 406 2.0HDI GTX , FULL HISTORY, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, ELECTRIC PACK, CD-RADIO, PAS, ETC. 50+MPG | £1995 |

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**2007 07 CITROEN C1 1.0 Rhythm
5dr, 10 Owner, S/History, 29k
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**2006 56 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0
VVT-I, 5DR, 1 OWNER, S/HISTORY, 26K
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Maidstone £120,000

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Tovil £150,000

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Maidstone Offers in excess of £165,000

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Maidstone £169,000

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Maidstone Offers in excess of £135,000

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- Two Parking Spaces

Maidstone £225,000



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- Conservatory

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- 2 Bedrooms, Patio Garden
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Good Access for M20

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- Two Double Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
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Maidstone £189,995



- Three Double Bedrooms
- Good Size Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory
- Pleasant Rear Garden

Maidstone £200,000



- Grade II Listed Property
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms
- 80ft Rear Garden
- Modern Fitted Kitchen

Coxheath £250,000



- Two Bedroom Det Bungalow
- Good Sized Plot
- Garage and Driveway
- Pleasant Gardens, No Chain

Maidstone £165,000



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- Corner Plot
- Rear Patio and Garden

Maidstone £159,995



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- Village Location
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- Extended Three Bedroom Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory, Kitchen
- Ample Parking, Garage

Allington £269,995



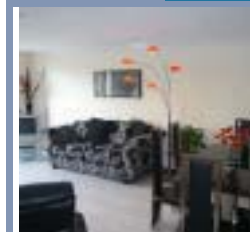
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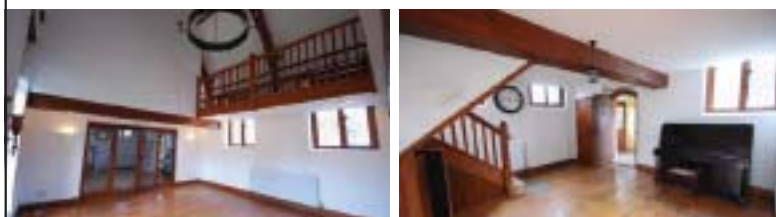
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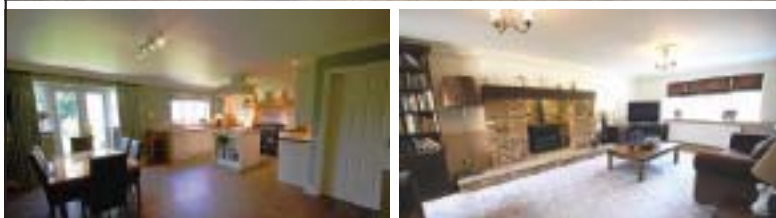
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A unique 3 bedroom detached residence located in the peaceful and sought after location of The Quarries. Light and bright accommodation with spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings and striking architectural character features. This property appeals to those seeking something different!



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Charming two bedroom Grade II listed detached barn conversion located in the centre of the much sought after village of Goudhurst offering local amenities and good access to Cranbrook and Tunbridge Wells. Pretty courtyard garden and car port.



Leybourne £2,350 pcm

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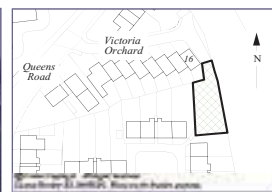
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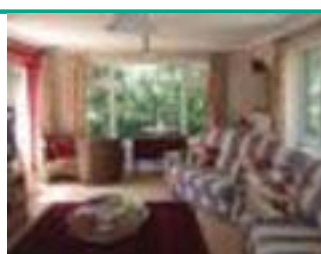
MAIDSTONE £380,000

A substantial beautifully presented and well maintained five bed period style semi detached property with two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast area. Walking distance of Loose School.



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A well presented 'deceptive' detached chalet bungalow having an attic master bedroom with en-suite and four additional ground floor bedrooms and a double detached garage/workshop.



COXHEATH £210,000

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MAIDSTONE £175,000

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You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.
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www.westlands.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 47946
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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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All posts are for September 2010. Cobham Hall is an independent girls' boarding and day school and is set in 145 acres of stunning parkland in North West Kent. It is conveniently located near the A2 and M25. Please visit our website or contact the Headmaster's PA, Mrs C Blackwell, for further details of the posts and an application form. Closing date for applications is 13th May 2010, with interviews the following week.

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For further information please contact Mrs Julie Wilson, Headteacher, Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

Tel: 0844 477 2525.

Email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date: Tuesday, 18 May 2010.

Interviews to be held: 24-27 May 2010.

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Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

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Lecturer in Travel and Tourism Ref: P0154

Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week Medway

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an excellent candidate to deliver and participate in the development of the Travel and Tourism programmes. Responsibilities will include establishing and developing travel and tourism industry contacts to enhance the students learning experience. A recognised Travel and Tourism qualification is essential. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Functional Skills Ref: P0468

Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

The College is seeking an exceptional candidate to participate in the delivery of Skills for Life qualifications across all the College Faculties. The successful candidate will be willing to organise and lead extracurricular and enrichment activities and contribute to the development of Functional Skills across the College. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching Basic and Skills and Functional Skills and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Market Research Officer Ref: P0464

Salary: £18,709 - £20,674 pro rata
18.5 hours per week (The College operates a flexible working policy)
Medway

We are looking for a creative and enthusiastic individual to assist the Marketing Team in devising and implementing effective internal and external market research. Excellent IT skills are essential as the role will also include keeping the College website up to date. The ideal candidate will have experience of carrying out market research activities and a good working knowledge of market research related software such as SNAP or Active.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in IT Ref: SE006

Hourly rate: £22.64 - £27.46 (dependant on qualifications and experience)

The College is looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach BTEC National and First Diploma IT programmes. Experience and knowledge of BTEC is desirable and ability to teach Functional Skills to level 2 would be welcome. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised Teaching Qualification.

Closing date: Wednesday 19 May 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Full Time Legal Secretary – Whitstable Office

We require a highly organised and pro-active private client legal secretary with current experience in Wills, Probate administration and Elderly Client affairs. The successful applicant will be supporting a Senior Legal Executive at our Whitstable office. Excellent IT skills, ability to deal directly with clients and team working are key requirements of this appointment.

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CRICKET

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FRIENDLY

The Mote Sunday XI v Gore Court Sunday XI

ROBERT O'Brien's half-century helped steer The Mote to a seven-wicket victory in a friendly against Gore Court on Sunday.

The visitors batted first and were made to pay as The Mote's bowlers quickly ripped through the top order. Arifullah Afmat bowled Gore Court's two openers early on to leave the visitors in trouble. Three more wickets fell shortly after thanks to Afmat, who finished with impressive figures of 3 for 9.

Andrew Nutting (17) and Dave Compton (33) tried to salvage the innings late on but they could only put 94 on the scoreboard. Compton's wicket was snared by Chris Feltham, who grabbed two wickets late on.

O'Brien led the Maidstone side's reply which put them in a commanding position before Howard Waters and Adam Crowhurst hit the winning runs in the 39th over.

The Mote 1st XI's Kent Cricket League Premier Division game against Hartley Country Club on Saturday was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to the heavy showers. Tom Harvey's side should begin their league campaign this Saturday at Gore Court.

Bowlers pave the way for resounding victory



ON TARGET: The Mote's bowlers put Gore Court in a difficult position early on in their friendly on Sunday and went on to claim a victory

SCOREBOARD

Gore Court

	Runs
Louis Newell b Afmat	6
Daniel Glazier b Afmat	3
Nathan Foster ct Crowhurst b Bone	3
Jamie Lavers ct O'Brien b Afmat	0
Andy Scott ct O'Brien b Adams	4
Andrew Nutting not out	17
Matt Kingsnorth b Adams	0
Dave Crompton ct O'Brien b Feltham	33
Michael Neame ct Adams b Feltham	0
Jack Johnson not out	5
James Newell did not bat	
Extras (7b 3lb 12w 1nb)	23
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs)	94

Batters

	O	M	R	W
Arifullah Afmat	6	1	9	3
Lewis Bone	6	1	15	1
Robert Adams	8	1	22	2
Chris Feltham	6	3	15	2
Mickey Back	8	1	17	0
John Smith	6	1	6	0

The Mote

	Runs
Robert O'Brien ct Kingsnorth b Foster	51
Ben Elliott ct Lavers b Lavers	16
Lawrence Freeborn b Lavers	8
Howard Waters not out	8
Adam Crowhurst not out	6
Chris Feltham did not bat	
Robert Adams did not bat	
John Smith did not bat	
Lewis Bone did not bat	
Mickey Back did not bat	
Arifullah Afmat did not bat	
Extras (4b 1lb 1w)	6
Total (3 wickets, 38.4 overs)	95

Batters

	O	M	R	W
James Newell	8	4	20	0
Michael Neame	8	0	27	0
Jamie Lavers	8	2	21	2
Dave Crompton	8	2	12	0
Nathan Foster	34	1	6	1
Matt Kingsnorth	2	0	4	0
Daniel Glazier	1	1	0	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT REGIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Yalding 1st XI v Wye 1st XI

A STRONG Yalding batting display proved too much for Wye as they suffered a 99-run defeat in difficult wet conditions.

Despite a number of showers the game managed to reach a conclusion with half-centuries from Yalding duo Marty Hollis and Jumshad Haider, helping to secure a comfortable win.

Wye needed a good start to their reply as they tried to chase down 212, but it failed to arrive. Haider's spell with the ball accounted for their opening three batsmen for just 19. The visitors tried to recover but were dismissed for 113.

Yalding 1st XI

	Runs
Matthew Thomas	18
Graham Hutchins	20
Marty Hollis	65
Joel Shopland	1
Mohammad Waseem	1
John Ryan	0
James Fenn	37
Jumshad Haider	57
Anthony Shepherd	4
Andrew Robinson	4
Jonathan Card	4
Extras	13
Total	212

Batters	O	M	R	W
Will Elgar	8	0	47	0
Alex Woodbridge	8	0	49	0
Stuart Wise	9	0	35	2
Keith Secrett	8	0	24	3
Mark Shannon	4	0	30	1
Raj Mahadevaiah	3	0	19	1

Wye 1st XI

	Runs
Nick Eve	14
David Fletcher	3
David Noden	2
Giles Starley	18
Raj Mahadevaiah	0
Stuart Wise	19
Will Elgar	22
Alex Woodbridge	24
Matt Barlow	2
Keith Secrett	1
Mark Shannon	5
Extras	22
Total	113

Batters	O	M	R	W
Jumshad Haider	6	2	8	4
James Fenn	8	2	24	0
Mohammad Waseem	7	2	22	0
Anthony Shepherd	6	0	29	2
Andrew Robinson	5	0	35	1
Marty Hollis	3	1	3	3

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Offham 1st XI v Macknade 1st XI

OFFHAM kicked off the new season with a disappointing five-wicket defeat at home to Macknade.

The home side posted a respectable 220 in the drizzly conditions, which was constructed around Lawrence Bell's 54, and followed valuable contributions from Ben Gittings (32) and Craig Corke (31).

However, Macknade never looked in trouble during their innings and they cruised past the winning total in the 36th over. Chris Jay's half-century and Lee Rigden's 43 helped the visitors record a victory on the opening day of the season.

Offham 1st XI

	Runs
Tom Gittings	7
Kraig Corke	31
Ben Gittings	32
Graham Razez	7
Leonard Watt	14
Lawrence Bell	54
Adam Kent	13
Tom Boucher	23
Ben Regan	11
Andy Cox	8
Andrew Stuart	0
Extras	20
Total	220

Batters	O	M	R	W
Kaylem Short	15	1	58	3
James Jarrett	4	0	23	0
Jamie Rigden	12	4	42	1
Chris Jay	9	0	40	2
Phil Rowcroft	7.3	0	42	3

Macknade 1st XI

	Runs
Phil Rowcroft	32
Kaylem Short	25
Lee Rigden	46
Chris Jay	53
Andrew Machin	6
Scott Davenport	39
Steve Taylor	8
Jonathan Holmans	1
Jamie Rigden	1
Darryl Cook	1
James Jarrett	1
Extras	11
Total	221

Batters	O	M	R	W
Leonard Watt	11	2	67	2
Andy Cox	7.5	0	54	0
Nathan Razez	11	0	60	2
Andrew Stuart	2	0	18	0
Ben Regan	6	2	17	1

FRIENDLY

Offham Sunday XI v Hadlow Sunday XI

A BATTING collapse ended Offham Sunday XI's hopes of victory as they were easily outclassed by Hadlow.

Offham made a bright start and were 65 for 2 before a dramatic collapse saw the hosts all-out for 92. They lost their remaining eight wickets for just 27 runs.

Hadlow had a relatively simple task to win the game and began strongly with a half-century from Greg Pickering. Sarel Venter's 27 made sure Hadlow surpassed the target inside 27 overs.

Offham Sunday XI

	Runs
Adam Kent	23
Alex Midgely	22
Jamie Powell	20
Daniel Kent	1
Tom Gittings	0
Rajinder Janagill	0
Sam Willis	0
Daniel Blakeburn	4
Nathan Brooker	7
Tom Bish	6
Dean Heighes	0
Extras	8
Total	92

Batters	O	M	R	W
Chris Millen	7	0	30	2
Sarel Venter	9	2	33	3
Jack MacDonald	9	1	19	3
Dan Batchellor	1.4	0	5	2
Dirk Nell	1	0	1	0

Hadlow

	Runs
Greg Pickering	50
Unsure	3
Dom Rogers	0
Sarel Venter	27
Dirk Nell	8
E Nation	1
Dan Batchellor	1
Chris Millen	1
Jack MacDonald	1
Unsure	1
Unsure	1
Extras	3
Total	95

Batters	O	M	R	W
Daniel Blakeburn	3	0	19	0
Dean Heighes	9	2	19	0
Nathan Brooker	6	2	19	2
Sam Willis	5	1	24	1
Tom Bish	4	1	13	1

FRIENDLY

Leybourne Sunday 1st XI v Cowdrey Sunday 1st XI

AN IMPRESSIVE knock of 75 from Neil Scudder was the highlight for Cowdrey as they beat Leybourne in a friendly on Sunday.

Scudder's 75 along with good knocks from Barney Scott (33), Gayashan Munasinghe (37) and Ben Mutch (22) left Leybourne with a massive 242 to chase down. Robert Still's unbeaten 48 put the hosts back on track, but it wasn't enough to prevent a 77-run defeat.

Cowdrey 1st XI

	Runs
Barney Scott	33
Leo Holmes	10
Jason Carver	29
Gayashan Munasinghe	37
Ben Mutch	22
Glen Warner	75
Robert Hood	22
Ross Pilkington	0
George Apps	0
Richard Marsh	0
E Clark	0
Extras	14
Total	242

Batters

	O	M	R	W
Norman Underdown	4	0	19	0
Tom Bray	7	0	50	1
Stuart Oldershaw	4	0	44	0
Matthew Webb	5	0	29	0
Alex Markwick	5	0	17	0
Robert Still	6	0	31	1
Shaneil Patel	5	0	22	1
Neil Scudder	4	0	25	1

Leybourne Sunday 1st XI

	Runs
Tom Smith	2
Ashley Ulph	21
Craig Rose	0
Matthew Webb	15
Alex Markwick	18
Robert Still	48
Stuart Oldershaw	22
Neil Scudder	11
Tom Bray	8
Shaneil Patel	2
Norman Underdown	1
Extras	21
Total	165

Batters

	O	M	R	W
Richard Marsh	7	1	28	2
Ross Pilkington	7	0	39	1
E Clark	6	1	9	1
George Apps	6	1	21	1
Ben Mutch	4	0	36	0
Barney Scott	3	0	9	1
Gayashan Munasinghe	3	0	9	1
Jason Carver	4	1	14	0

Stones' future up in the air as discussions begin

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is set to hold further talks with investor Oliver Ash following an inconclusive meeting discussing the club's future last week.

The Stones chairman held a conference call with French property developer Ash, who sunk £100,000 into the club as part of a plan to bring Maidstone back to the county town two years ago. With progress on the James Whatman Way Stadium project somewhat lacking, Ash was expected to call for the return of his investment at the meeting.

No decisions were made during the meeting on Friday, with discussions set to reconvene at length at another meeting expected next week.

A club statement read: "Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown had a telephone meeting with Richard Bowden-Brown, Bill Williams and Oliver Ash to discuss club affairs and in particular the situation regarding the repayment of the Richmond loan to the club, which is overdue.

"No specific agreement was reached as to how to reduce or remove this liability from the club. However, various ideas were exchanged



MEETING: Paul Bowden-Brown (centre) will talk to investor Oliver Ash again next week to discuss a repayment plan

concerning an on-going involvement of Richmond in the club and the parties agreed to consider in more detail this week at the end of which a further conversation is planned. All shareholders are hopeful that an agreement can be found which will enable the club to go forward."

While the club are set for further talks regarding its future, work is to begin on leveling the site proposed for Maidstone's new stadium at James Whatman Way. The club struck an agreement with contractors Warings, who are helping to build the new Kent History and

Library Centre in the area, with the building contractors set to level the site in preparation for future construction.

Bowden-Brown said: "I would like to thank Warings for their commitment to assist the club to start work on Whatman Way and especially their offer to level the site of our new ground. It is a vital piece of work and I hope it will be the catalyst for further development on this much-needed facility for the county town of Kent.

"The club can now produce a revised plan to show what work is required together with the required timescale and finance."

Pictures: STEVE TERRELL

SQUASH



QUALITY: Alan Clyne (on right) from last year's semi-final plays local hope James Evans

World-class stars set to converge on The Mote for next month's Kent Open

THE field for the Kent Open squash tournament has been announced, with a smattering of the world's top 100 players signing up to play next month.

The event, to be held at The Mote Squash Club in Maidstone, has been upgraded to a One Star world-ranking event, with just over US\$10,000 up for grabs in prize money.

Alan Clyne, Scotland's number two, is the highest ranked player in the field at 62 in the world and is one of 12 players in the top 100.

Alan Thatcher, chairman of the Kent Squash & Racketball Association, was delighted with the quality of the line-up.

He said: "It's exactly what we're aiming for. We want to encourage these young guys and give them the opportunity to pick up ranking points. A lot of the focus is on the top 16 and the tournaments on TV, but these boys need more tournaments and that's the aim of the Kent Open."

There will be local interest in the form of Steven London, from Park Langley in Beckenham, who was awarded a wild card for the main draw. The qualifying tournament, held on June 1, will also feature The Mote duo Jonny Powell and James Evans, who will be hoping to win one of four spots in the main tournament.

Admission for the six-day event, which concludes with the final on June 6, is free.

Organisers have also been running the Kent Squash Festival in conjunction with the main tournament to encourage school-children to take up the sport. More than 20 schools across the county have been visited, surpassing the target of introducing 200 youngsters to squash and racketball.



IDOL: Barrie Knight could play Phil Taylor (pictured)

A big Knight for Barrie at UK Open

DARTS

AN AMATEUR darts player from Maidstone is set to play alongside some of the sport's biggest names after qualifying for next month's UK Open.

Barrie 'The Quiet Man' Knight booked his place in one of darts biggest tournaments by winning a regional qualifying event in Gillingham earlier this month. He will join 31 amateur players who will go up against the world's top 96 professionals.

The 32-year-old began his career on the oche eight years ago at his local pub in Marden. Since then he has played in county superleague meetings but nothing on the scale of the UK Open. The competition known as the 'FA Cup of darts' will be held at Bolton Wanderers' Reebok Stadium in front of thousands of fans and live television cameras.

Knight said: "It's unreal to be honest. I'm really looking forward to it as the tournament will be my first major. Qualifying went well but I didn't think I would win the event. I've never played in front of big crowds before so that is going to be an experience. I think the player I'd most like to come up against is Phil Taylor, just because of what he's done in the game."

The tournament begins on June 3.



PARALYMPIC HOPE: Kelsie Gibson experienced an international debut to remember by clinching two gold medals

Kelsie's oar-inspiring debut

ROWING

PARALYMPIC hopeful Kelsie Gibson boosted her chances of featuring for Great Britain at the London 2012 Games after winning two gold medals on her international debut.

The 16-year-old Maidstone Invicta Club rower was called up to the Great Britain LTA Adaptive coxed fours squad to compete at the Varese International Regatta in Italy earlier this month.

With only a year's worth of rowing experience, the Maidstone Girls Grammar School pupil helped her crew beat Ireland, Russia, Germany and Italy to the gold medal in both her races.

The result has put her firmly in contention for the Great Britain rowing squad for the London 2012 Paralympics.

Maidstone Invicta's junior coordinator, Kate Beaumont, said: "It's fantastic for both the club and for Kelsie. To do that well on her debut with those results is great for her and increases her chances of featuring at London 2012. We've had a lot of success in the seniors at the club but not so much in the juniors, so it is refreshing for everyone."

The national junior indoor rowing champion is on a training camp with the squad in Italy and will return to the Great Britain boat when she takes part in the next round of the Rowing World Cup in Slovenia on May 28.

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Mark Stimson speaks to the press for the last time as Gillingham manager

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